



Week beginning Monday 28TH September 2020
Newsletter

www.stmaryspsportaferry.com

COMMUNICATION

This week we issued a "Permission" private message to our P1-7 parents and to date we have over 80% of parents responding. In the school office we are able to monitor who is receiving and who is responding to these messages. It is vital we have full coverage and we will be making contact with a number of families to hopefully rectify any problems.

If you are reading this newsletter it is highly likely you are getting full access to our school app and web site. Therefore, I ask you to make contact with other friends and families who have pupils in our school to make sure they are also getting these messages. Sometimes it is a matter of updating the app. If you have an update request on your phone for the app, please ensure you have requested this update. Alternatively, another possible solution is to delete the app from the phone and re-download the "Schools NI" from your appropriate app store or directly from the school web site at <https://www.stmaryspsportaferry.com>

I plan to send out a further test "Permission" message this week and apologies in advance for duplicating but it is vital we have total exposure.

Also, we have initiated a mobile phone contact number which will be available to you to contact a member of our school staff outside of school hours and during the weekend. **This phone number should only be used for emergency purposes if you need to alert the school of a potential positive case of Covid-19 for your child.** This number will not be attended to during the normal school office hours of 9.00am -3.00pm. If you ring this number there is no guarantee it will be answered. Therefore, we ask that you send a text message to this phone rather than ringing detailing your name and purpose of contact and a member of our schooling staff will get back in touch with you asap. The number is **07716639826**. This number is also added to o contact detail on the school web site.

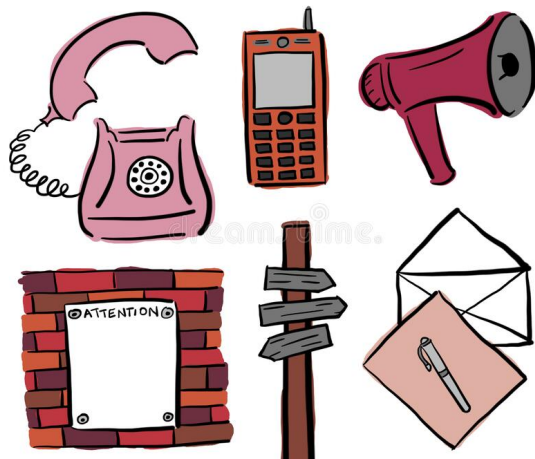
PARENT TEACHER CONTACT

Should you wish to speak with your child's teacher, for whatever reason, please ring the school office to arrange an agreeable time for this to happen over the phone. This also applies to any messages you may wish to pass on to the teacher. If you insist on a face-to-face meeting this will require at least 24 hours notice and all protocols for social distancing and the encouragement for wearing of face covering will be required.



ACCELERATED READER

Our P5/6/7 pupils use the Accelerated Reader programme to test their knowledge and understanding of reading. In previous years this would all have been done in school. However, we have now enabled your child to take a test at home and teachers will be monitoring your child's





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progress with this. To access this you must follow the link <https://ukhosted44.renlearn.co.uk/2235150/>. This link is also on our School Web site under the Home Learning and Links heading. It is vital you insert the full web address otherwise your child's user name and password will not work.

Your child's username has been supplied to them and all passwords have been set up as "password1". If you are unable to get access your child has lost their username please contact the school office. We are currently setting up our Primary 4 for Accelerated Reader and Mrs O'Neill will keep that class updated on progress with this.



IXL

The school still has full access to IXL for P4/5/6/7 pupils. We encourage all to keep using this app. If your child is unsure of their password, please ask them to get this from their class teacher.



Are you entitled?

FREE SCHOOL MEALS

If your child is entitled to a free school meal it is important that you apply for this - even if you are not intending to send your child to avail of a dinner in school. The school has been notified of successful applicants but we are aware there is a backlog in the processing of these claims. If you are awaiting confirmation, please check with the school office that your child is included

in our records. If you believe you are eligible for Free School Meal entitlement, please follow the link below to apply asap. This is vitally important as the school can avail of additional funding if we have all potential pupils enrolled in this.

<https://www.eani.org.uk/financial-help/free-school-meals-uniform-grants/apply-for-free-school-meals-uniform-grants>

PARENTS SUPPORT GROUP AGM (repeat)

It is the same plea each time but this year we need your help and assistance more than ever. In the last year, and mainly to the on-going efforts of our existing Parents Support Group, we have been able to raise funds to purchase the on-line IXL and Accelerated Reader programme, purchase a set of Homework and class text books for P4/5/6/7, purchase reading schemes, outdoor play resources and replacement interactive whiteboards for 5 classrooms. If the efforts of our PSG group was not there our pupils would simply miss out on these opportunities.

We are looking for all existing and/or new members to come on board again this year to help, in whatever way you can. The emphasis this year is not solely on raising money but on connecting our schooling community and we welcome and encourage all to get involved.

An AGM meeting has been called for Tuesday 29th September at 3.30pm in the School and we would love to see many new faces there.



DINNERS

This incoming week all dinners will be served in the Dinner Hall

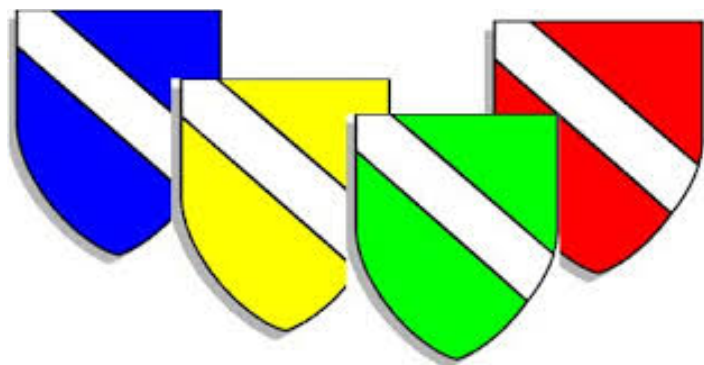
Monday (In Dinner Hall)	Pulled Pork baguette & Wedges/ Biscuit Ham/ Cheese/ Jam Sandwich / Biscuit/ Drink
Tuesday (In Dinner Hall)	Fish Fingers, Mash Potatoes and Beans/ Yoghurt or Fruit Ham/ Cheese/ Jam Sandwich / Biscuit/ Drink
Wednesday (In Dinner Hall)	Roast Gammon Dinner/ Apple crumble & Custard Ham/ Cheese/ Jam Sandwich / Biscuit/ Drink
Thursday (In Dinner Hall)	Chicken Curry & Rice/ Muffin Ham/ Cheese/ Jam Sandwich / Biscuit/ Drink (In Classroom)
Friday (In Dinner Hall)	Hot Dogs & Chips/ Ice-cream Ham/ Cheese/ Jam Sandwich / Biscuit/ Drink (In Classroom)

Dinners cost £2.60 per day and must be paid at the beginning of each week in a clearly marked envelope with your child's name, class, the amount included and the days on which they wish to have school dinners. Please try to include exact money as change will not be issued until later in the week.

HOUSE POINTS

Each week, in school, we add the total number of House Points achieved by pupils of P3/4/5/6/7. This week's totals and the overall can be found below. As well as overall points we also celebrate the winning House Team within each classroom. Also, pupils have their own individual House Points book and can achieve Bronze, Silver and Gold certificates depending on the number of individual House Points achieved. This week we gave our first Bronze certificates to Orna (P5) and Aine (P5)

	This Week's Total	Overall Total
Red	220	435
Green	222	432
Blue	218	426
Yellow	219	443



POSITIVITY ROCKS

During the month of September we are encouraging each family to choose and decorate a rock to help establish a "Positivity" pathway within our school. Once completed bring the rock into school.

Thank you to everyone who has brought a decorated rock in so far and the picture below is a selection of those already sent in. If you have any at home or wish to add to our collection please bring them into school by Friday 2nd October 2020.



PUPIL'S OF THE WEEK

Pupils of the Week
25th September 2020

Primary 1	Jack
Primary 2	Isla
Primary 3	Stephen
Primary 4	Enda
Primary 5	Cora
Primary 6	Scarlett
Primary 7	Eimear



INFORMATION FOR PARENTS & CARERS

Everyone has a role to play in keeping our schools safe and helping to stop the spread of COVID-19.

DON'T SEND YOUR CHILD TO SCHOOL IF THEY HAVE COVID-19 SYMPTOMS.

VISIT [NIDIRECT.GOV.UK/CORONAVIRUS](https://nidirect.gov.uk/coronavirus) TO BOOK A TEST ONLINE. CALL 119 IF YOU CANNOT BOOK A TEST ONLINE.

YOU SHOULD BOOK A COVID-19 TEST IF YOUR CHILD HAS:

A HIGH TEMPERATURE

This means they feel hot to touch on their chest or back (you do not need to measure their temperature).

OR

A NEW CONTINUOUS COUGH

This means coughing a lot for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours (if they usually have a cough, it may be worse than usual).

OR

A LOSS OR CHANGE TO THEIR SENSE OF SMELL OR TASTE

This means they've noticed they cannot smell or taste anything, or things smell or taste different to normal.

IF YOUR CHILD DOES NOT HAVE SYMPTOMS OF COVID-19 BUT HAS OTHER COLD-LIKE SYMPTOMS, SUCH AS A RUNNY NOSE, THEY DO NOT NEED TO BE TESTED AND THEY OR MEMBERS OF YOUR HOUSEHOLD DO NOT NEED TO SELF-ISOLATE. YOUR CHILD CAN ATTEND SCHOOL IF FIT TO DO SO.

HERE'S WHAT TO DO IF:

YOUR CHILD HAS COVID-19 SYMPTOMS

WHAT TO DO?

- DO NOT SEND YOUR CHILD TO SCHOOL
- Book a COVID-19 test
- Household self-isolates
- Inform school immediately about test result

WHEN CAN MY CHILD RETURN?

Your child can return to school if the test is negative providing they are well enough, have not had a fever for 48 hours and if they haven't been advised to self-isolate by the PHA Contact Tracing Service.

YOUR CHILD TESTS POSITIVE FOR COVID-19

WHAT TO DO?

- DO NOT SEND YOUR CHILD TO SCHOOL
- Inform school immediately about test result
- Self-isolate for at least 10 days as advised by the PHA.

WHEN CAN MY CHILD RETURN?

Your child can return to school after 10 days even if they still have a cough / loss of smell or taste. These symptoms can last for several weeks.

SOMEBODY IN MY HOUSEHOLD HAS COVID-19 SYMPTOMS

WHAT TO DO?

- DO NOT SEND YOUR CHILD TO SCHOOL
- The household member should book a COVID-19 test
- Household self-isolates
- Inform school immediately about test result

WHEN CAN MY CHILD RETURN?

Your child can return to school if the symptomatic household member's test is negative and if they haven't been advised to self-isolate by the PHA Contact Tracing Service.

SOMEBODY IN MY HOUSEHOLD TESTS POSITIVE FOR COVID-19

WHAT TO DO?

- DO NOT SEND YOUR CHILD TO SCHOOL
- Inform school immediately about test result

WHEN CAN MY CHILD RETURN?

Your child can return to school when they have completed 14 days of self-isolation without any symptoms*.

CONTACT TRACING HAS IDENTIFIED MY CHILD AS A CLOSE CONTACT

WHAT TO DO?

- DO NOT SEND YOUR CHILD TO SCHOOL
- Self-isolate for at least 14 days as advised by the PHA Contact Tracing Service

WHEN CAN MY CHILD RETURN?

Your child can return to school when they have completed 14 days of self-isolation without any symptoms*.

YOUR CHILD HAS BEEN IN CONTACT WITH SOMEONE WHO HAS BEEN IDENTIFIED AS A CLOSE CONTACT

WHAT TO DO?

- Attend school as normal
- If your child does not have any COVID-19 symptoms they should carry on with normal activities.

YOUR CHILD HAS TRAVELLED ABROAD AND HAS TO SELF-ISOLATE

WHAT TO DO?

- DO NOT SEND YOUR CHILD TO SCHOOL
- Self-isolate for 14 days in line with quarantine advice

WHEN CAN MY CHILD RETURN?

Your child can return to school when they have completed 14 days of self-isolation without any symptoms*.

*If your child has been identified as a close contact of a case of COVID-19, or has returned from travel abroad and is self-isolating, they must self-isolate for 14 days regardless of a negative COVID-19 test result.

Further information, including Frequently Asked Questions for Parents and Carers, can be found on the Department of Education's website at www.education-ni.gov.uk

EDUCATION RESTART

WE ALL MUST DO IT TO GET THROUGH IT

