



St.Patrick's Primary School Sway Newsletter

Dear Parents,

Welcome to our weekly Sway newsletter.

Thanks to Emma Belton, Lauren Brolly and Micheal Mc Tague who helped produce this weeks newsletter.

Please find important dates and events below. We will try to give as much notice and information as possible, however there may be times when dates many change, beyond our control.

- **Please remember the increase in the cost of toast . Please enclose £1.75 in an envelope clearly labelled with the name and class.**
- Monday 19th January: Mrs Duffin's class go swimming. 9am sharp.
- Tuesday 20th January: Quiz Club for P6/P7 from 3pm-4pm.
- Tuesday 20th January: Healthy Kidz After School hurling and camogie for P5 boys and girls. 3pm-4pm.
- Sunday 18th to the 24th January: All classes will celebrate Catholic Schools Week– **Normal Lives, Called to Holiness.** (All classes will attend Mass on Friday 23rd January at 10am and complete related activities throughout the week.)
- Tuesday 20th January: rescheduled P6 Sport trip for those pupils who attended the After Schools Sport with Rasharkin Primary School before Christmas. (see information below)

- Wednesday 21st January: P1 and P2 Grandparents are invited to school to participate in a shared reading /songs morning. Information has already been distributed.
- Wednesday 21st January: Nursery and P1 application portal closes at noon.
- Friday 23rd January: P1-P7 classes will attend Mass to celebrate Catholic Schools Week at 10am.
- Saturday 24th January: SEAG test results. Post primary portal opens.
- Thursday 29th January: P3 assembly at 1:30pm.
- Monday 2nd February: Service of Light for P7 pupils at 6:30pm in the Church.
- Mid-term break: Monday 9th February to Friday 13th February inclusive.
- Monday 16th February: P7 (Mrs Mc Closkey's class) commence swimming.

Sacraments: More information will follow closer to the time.

- First Confession: P3 Thursday 5th March at 1pm in the Church
- First Holy Communion: P4 Saturday 16th May at 11am
- Confirmation: P7 Friday 24th April at 11am
- Woodhall Residential: Both P7 classes Monday 27th April- 29th April 2026

Hopefully you find our weekly Sway newsletter useful. We aim to give you a snapshot of life in St. Patrick's, while also providing relevant dates and information. If you have any queries please telephone the school office and we will try to help.

ATTENTION ALL PARENTS:

At present we are trying to ensure all parents of pupils in our school have access to the Seesaw app. Nursery to P3 should already be logged in, as this platform has been in use from September.

On Monday all pupils from P4-P7 received their QR codes and instructions. If you cannot log in please inform the school so we can try to fix the problem.

It is our plan eventually, that the link for the Sway newsletter will be sent via Seesaw to reduce costs to the school for text messaging.

Seesaw

Please find the link below for our new school website. Copy the address and paste into your searchbar.

In downloads you can find our recent Curriculum Information Evenings presentations as well as our school policies.

<https://stpatricksrasharkin.com/>



Thank you to E McMullan Ltd who made a very generous contribution to school funds. This has allowed us to purchase new laptops. This has greatly enhanced our ICT suite and will be a great benefit to all children for years to come.



Thank you to McKeown Fine Foods who made a very generous contribution to school funds. This has allowed us to add to our library stock and to purchase a new reading scheme for the

whole of Key Stage 2. The children and staff are delighted with the new and exciting reading material.

NURSERY PUPILS ENTERING PRIMARY ONE IN SEPTEMBER 2026 AND CHILDREN ENTERING NURSERY IN SEPTEMBER 2026.

EA Connect has opened for online applications for Pre-School and P1 where verification/supporting documents are submitted. Please contact the school if you have any queries regarding completing the online forms. Please click on the link below:

www.eani.org.uk

Key dates for SEPTEMBER 2026

- 10 December 2025
Admissions Criteria published
- 7 January 2026
Applications open at 12 noon
- 21 January 2026
Applications close at 12 noon

www.eani.org.uk

www.eani.org.uk/admissions

APPLICATIONS OPEN ON 7 JAN 2026

Pre-School & Primary 1 admissions criteria for September 2026 now live at www.eani.org.uk

eacconnect

<https://connect.eani.org.uk/parent/>

ea Education Authority

preschooladmissions@eani.org.uk
primaryadmissions@eani.org.uk

P6 Parents REMINDER

The United Youth Initiative trip to jungle NI is this Tuesday 20th January. Please see your email.

All information still remains the same as follows;

- *Transport will collect participants from school **after lunchtime**. This means that you don't have to worry providing a packed lunch if your child usually gets school dinners.*
- *We would advise for children to wear trainers, as they will be taking part in some activities which involves some physical movement.*
- *Uniform will be worn as normal, but leggings/tracksuit bottoms/coat are advised so that they can participate in the activities.*
- *The bus will leave Jungle NI at approximately **4pm**, traffic depending we hope to be back at St Patricks PS Rasharkin Carpark (opposite the school) for around **5pm**. Please be at the school for pick up to avoid any delays.*
- *We would encourage to **not** send your child with any spending money for this trip as it is already fully paid and we will not be allowing children to purchase any food/drinks at the venue. If you would like you can send your child with a snack and drink to avoid getting hungry!*

*If you have already given consent for the original date, **you do not need to resend permission.***

The Primary 7 pupils continue to help out in the canteen each week. Well done to each of them, for their great team spirit and hard work!



Many of our Primary 6 and 7 pupils enjoyed our after school quiz club this week. Lots of learning was taking place!



Congratulations to the pupils from P1-P7 who received Pupil of the day this week.
Congratulations everyone!



Well done to the P7 boys who represented the school at the Cumann na mBunscoil quiz.
(Missing from the photograph Jakub Podgorski)



Well done to the Primary 7 boys who attended the Primary School Football tournament in Antrim Forum on Thursday. The boys reached the final and unfortunately were beaten after extra time. We were so very proud of the players who displayed excellent skill and sportmanship.



Primary 7 Parents:

The letter about our Woodhall Residential Trip has been distributed. Please check school bags if you have not yet received this.

Primary 7 Parents:

As we approach Confirmation we are getting ready for the Service of Light.

If possible can you please send your child's baptismal candle into school. Please enclose in a small plastic bag and label with their name. This event will be held on Monday 2nd February at 6:30pm in the Church.

This week the Primary 5 boys and girls had the opportunity to stay after schools for hurling and camogie with Coach Aine from Healthy Kidz. Everyone had great fun!





ATTENTION: PRIMARY 7 BOYS OR GIRLS

We have been given the opportunity to represent St.Patrick's PS at the up and coming Antrim hurling and football fixtures. Hurling: Antrim V Clare in Dunloy on 1st February (time to be confirmed)

Football Antrim V Wicklow in Portglenone on 28th February (time to be confirmed)

Parents must transport children to the venue and supervise until the children are required to gather for participation at half time. If you wish your child to be considered for this opportunity please send a note into school before Thursday 22nd January. Names will then be drawn from a hat. This is open to both boys and girls.

Please remember the importance of being to school on time each morning. All classes from P1-P7 begin their learning at 9am. Any late arrivals must be recorded as late on the school attendance.

Also where possible, please try to schedule appointments after school for children. Again, leaving school early reduces learning and must be recorded on the pupil attendance.



IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR PRIMARY SIX AND SEVEN CHILDREN

Please note the portal for selecting your P7 child's secondary school place will open on 27th January 2026 after results are received.

At this time of year there are lots of Open Days for both P6 and P7 children to attend. This week we have welcomed Mrs O'Neill from St.Louis Grammar School who invited our P6 and P7 classes to the up and coming open nights.

ST LOUIS GRAMMAR SCHOOL, BALLYMENA

'Ut sint unum' - that they may be one

You are invited to our

OPEN EVENINGS



**Wednesday 21st &
Thursday 22nd January 2026**

for P6/P7 pupils and their parents | Principal's First Address 7pm

Promoting: Excellence, Endeavour and Empowerment

Cullybackey Road, Ballymena, BT43 5DW stlouisgrammar.com 028 2564 9534