

Lissan PS Newsletter

September 2021



Dear Parents,

Please find below useful information and reminders for the remainder of the month of September 2021.

WEBSITE

Detailed information and our latest prospectus and policies can be found on our website www.lissanps.com

ATTENDANCE

Class begins at 9.05am each day. Please arrive to school punctually.

We encourage all pupils to attend school every day. If your child is off school for any reason a note must be sent to school outlining the absence.

This is in line with DENI Policy. Thank you for your cooperation

Dear Parents/ Guardians,

We are delighted to welcome all of our pupils back in school for this new academic year. We would especially like to welcome our new Primary One pupils. I hope they are all very happy and successful in Lissan PS.



All of the children have settled back exceptionally well, and I would like to thank you for preparing the children so well for their return to school. While we have been able to relax some of the “rules and regulations” around COVID, our priority is to ensure the safety of the entire school community so we are constantly monitoring the situation in school and following the most up to date guidance.

It is important to check the school website to keep up to date with upcoming events within the school- www.lissanps.com

If you have any concerns or queries about your child’s progress or welfare, please do not hesitate to contact me at the school.

6 Claggan Road, Cookstown, BT80 9XE

Tel: 02886764581

Cmcintyre695@c2kni.net

Mrs Ciara McIntyre (Principal)

Reminder: School Closure

Monday 27th September will be a school closure for the children.

Normal school resumes on Tuesday 28th September

Car Parking at Home Time

We would request that everyone follows our safety procedures in collecting the children.

We understand that the car parking outside our school is inadequate and we are working hard to try and improve this. At the moment, we would encourage all parents to park in the chapel carpark and walk over or in the available parking bays. It is essential that cars do not park in the **first bay beside the school gate**. This area must be left free for the **bus to safely park**.

We have taken measures to ensure the safety and efficiency of home-times. Staff are encouraged to release children promptly at home time so parents are not having to wait around unnecessarily.



Important Information Regarding Allergies

Throughout the school, several children have very **serious allergies**. It is important that parents refrain from giving their children products containing nuts. Some examples of these foods include, peanut butter, hazelnut or chocolate spread or confectionary containing nuts, (Snickers/Topic), etc. If a child with an allergy comes into contact with these, a life threatening situation could occur. Many thanks for your co-operation.

NB. Whilst some chocolate spreads are nut free, from a school perspective it is difficult to ascertain if the spread is nut-free or not. We would therefore ask if you could try to avoid chocolate spread.

If your child has an allergy, please ensure that all details are given to the school secretary.

If there are any changes to previous conditions, please update the office.



School Uniform

As we begin the new school year it is great to see all the children back to school wearing their full uniform. I would ask you to support us by ensuring that your child/children continue to wear their uniform (PE uniform on PE days). **Also, please ensure that all items of uniform, coats, footwear and bags are clearly marked with the child's name and class. This helps when items of clothing or bags are lost or found.**

We are delighted that we have been able to secure the expertise of Conor McCrory. Conor will be coaching every Tuesday. The children should wear their PE uniform into school every Tuesday.

Blue plain t shirt/ polo shirt – navy tracksuit bottoms – thank you for your cooperation in this.

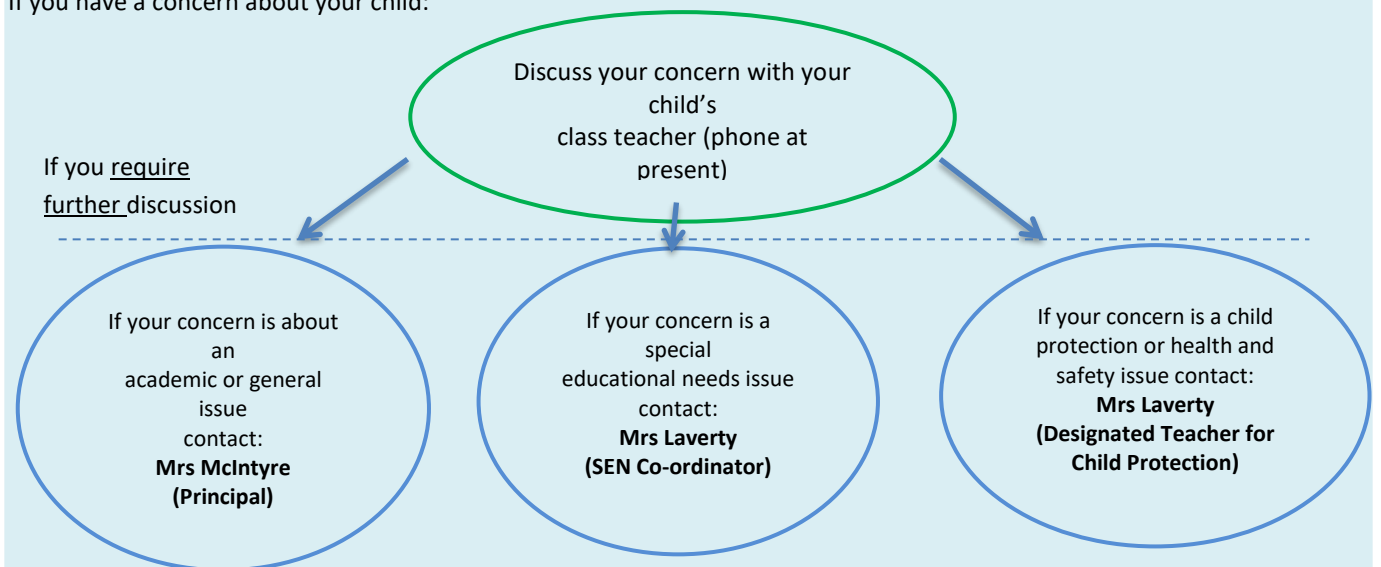


PARENTAL CONCERNS

If you have concern about your child in school, please follow the diagram below.

Most issues/concerns can be sorted out quickly by the class teacher.

If you have a concern about your child:



If you have a worry or concern, don't keep it to yourself, the Principal and Staff are always happy to listen. Please feel free to ring the office and leave a message or telephone number and the teacher will get back to you as soon as possible.

Healthy Snack / Lunch box – birthday treats & medication needs.

The school has a healthy eating policy, which involves children bringing a healthy break to school every day. Therefore, we will be actively encouraging the children to consume the following foods and drinks at break time:

* milk and water / any fruit or vegetable / any bread product, for example, scone, sandwich, wheaten, soda, pancake, potato bread, tortilla wrap, pitta bread, bread muffin and crumpets. We would ask you to avoid sugary spreads.

We would also encourage children to bring water - in a reusable bottle - to school every day, as hydration is very important to the learning process.

It is also our intention to hold at least one event per term in school to promote healthy eating and highlight the importance of a healthy break. To extend this further and support our **children who have allergies** (some severe and life threatening) **parents are reminded not to supply birthday cake / muffins / party bags for children's birthdays to the class.**

P1 Finishing Times

From Monday 13th September P1 pupils stay and have lunch and finish at 1pm.

From Monday 4th October Primary 1 children will finish school each day at 2pm.

Together we learn, grow and play in God's love and care.

VERY IMPORTANT MEDICATION NEEDS

If your child needs any medicine administered while in school, for example, Inhalers, written consent is needed.

These forms are available from the office.



Updating School Records

It is vitally important that we have your correct home address, home and mobile telephone numbers, email address plus details of your chosen contact person(s) for our records. If any of your details have changed from last year, please contact the school office. If your details change during the course of this year, please let us know.

Attendance Matters – Some helpful hints

All school attendance records are computerised and we would appreciate it when your child is absent from school that a dated letter/note of explanation is sent into the class teacher, explaining all absenteeism. If your child is going to be late for class any morning or needs to leave school for an appointment, a note of explanation is required.

Please note, the teacher cannot mark children present until they arrive in class. Following procedures stipulated by the Education Welfare Office, all unexplained absences from school will be recorded on our computer system as 'N' (no reason provided).

Also please note that in order to receive **100% attendance** for the school year pupils must be present for both the morning and afternoon sessions during the school day. Your co-operation in this matter would be appreciated.

Parents can help in the following ways:

- Establish a good routine in the mornings and evenings so your child is prepared for the school day ahead.
- Make sure your child goes to school regularly and follows the school rules.
- Ensure your child arrives at school on time – not late.
- Arrange dental and medical appointments outside school hours where possible.
- Always inform the school if your child is absent due to illness – this should be followed up with a written note when your child returns to school.
- What are they doing? – Who are they with?
- Take family holidays outside term time.
- Attend parent evenings and school events.
- Praise and reward your child's achievements at school.
- Always support school staff in their efforts to control difficult or challenging behaviour.
- Take truancy seriously – if your child is not attending school as you expect, they may be putting themselves at risk
- Talk to your child about school and take an interest in their school work (including homework).
- Discuss any problems or difficulties with the school – staff are there to help and will be supportive.



For more information, please reference the Department of Education information leaflet '**School Attendance Matters: A Parent's Guide**'.

Sacramental Information

Dates for sacraments are decided with Fr Hughes and Fr McGinley. Sacramental dates will be agreed in early October and communicated as soon as possible thereafter.



Class DoJo

Class Dojo was extremely effective last year and as such we will continue to use this platform as our primary form of communication. Please contact the school office if you are experiencing any difficulties with the app.



Purpose

The purpose of homework at Lissan Primary School is to provide opportunities for parents to be involved in their child's learning. It enables children to practise and consolidate skills and aims to broaden the context of learning and provide enrichment and extension. Finally, it aims to enable children to take responsibility for their own learning, to become independent learners and to develop perseverance.

(Lissan PS Homework Policy)

Our **Homework Policy** is available to read on our school website. We believe that homework is a valuable activity which reinforces your child's learning. We would ask that you support your child by helping them and checking over their homework. If your child is experiencing any difficulty, please do not hesitate to contact the class teacher.

Fund Raising

This year we hope to do one or two fund raising events. We are very aware of the challenging financial times faced by everyone and we do not wish to put additional pressures on any family. We are also working hard to access additional support from grants and the Education Authority.

Why is Fund raising SO important?

Like so many other schools, our budget has been greatly cut over the last few years. Unfortunately, this has meant that we have been forced to cover the costs of additional resources and staffing ourselves. This year we made the decision to continue to employ an additional teacher (at a cost to the school) to ensure smaller class sizes throughout the school. We believe that this is **highly beneficial** in ensuring high quality provision for all our pupils. It is VITAL that we have successful fund raising next year if we want to be able to continue with our teaching numbers next year.

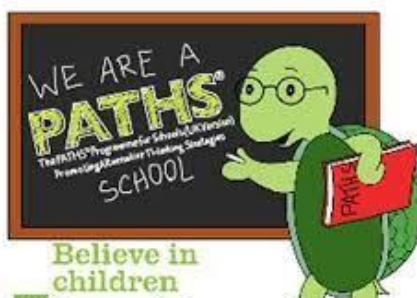
What will our Fund Raising Money be Spent on?

- Additional Teacher to ensure smaller classes throughout the school
- PATHS Resources in ALL classes
- ICT Resources which will be used to create a designated space to enhance the delivery of ICT for every pupil

Sponsored Autumn Walk to Lissan House

Over the next week your child will bring home a sponsor sheet for the Autumn Walk to Lissan House. Please give generously! All money will go towards SCHOOL FUNDS – Thank you in advance.

Walk will take place on Wednesday 20th October – Weather Permitting!



School Policies

Complete copies of all our school policies can be obtained by contacting the school office. This includes arrangements for **Child Protection, Internet Safety, Pastoral Care and our Safeguarding Policies.**

Breakfast Club



We are delighted to be able to offer a Breakfast Club. We hope that this will be a useful service for our parents who wish to drop their children into school earlier in the morning.

So far, the children have really enjoyed the Club. A big “thank you” to Michelle who has welcomed the children with a great variety of breakfast items!

Breakfast Club is available to all children from 8 am each morning. Pupils who would like to attend should be left into school any time from 8am onwards. Pupils have a choice of toast, cereal, fruit, hot chocolate, and juice. There is a cost of £1.50 per child. If siblings attend - there is a reduction in costs -£1 for each additional child.

Pupils not attending breakfast club can only be dropped to school from 8.45 onwards. Class begins at 9.05am



Payment can be made daily or by the end of the week. We would encourage all payments (dinner/ swimming etc.) to be made promptly as this greatly helps our office – thank you.

This year we are delighted to announce that we will be delivering the PATHS curriculum across the school. Our staff have been trained in this fantastic programme and we have purchased superb new resources. We hope that this programme will be greatly beneficial to all our children.

What is PATHS?

PATHS is a programme of lessons and strategies that helps children manage their emotions, communicate effectively and problem solve independently.

It takes a holistic approach to include all children, families and staff are involved.

PATHS is a research based programme grounded in the science of children's brain development. It uses progressive schemes of work, engaging resources and diverse activities to establish a positive classroom.

PATHS helps children with...

- Self-esteem, self-confidence and self-control
- Frustration & anger management
- Attention and concentration
- Thinking before they act out in anger
- Emotional understanding
- Expressing their feelings in a positive way
- Understanding that all feelings are okay, but some behaviours are not ok
- Preparing for change (e.g. moving to secondary school)

PATHS works around 3 key features

Feelings

The children are taught how to recognise different feelings, what it feels like to be happy, frustrated or sad etc. They are also taught what it might look like for other people. Feelings are described as comfortable or uncomfortable but all feelings are ok. e.g. It's ok to feel upset

or angry it's how we then deal with these feelings. The children will build up a set of feeling cards so they can show and talk about who they are feeling.

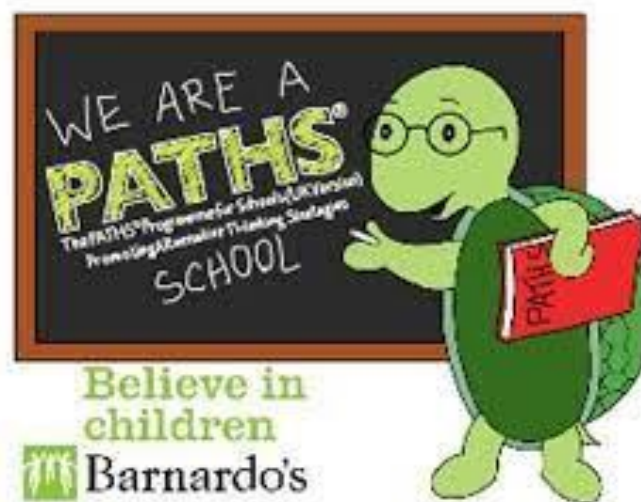
Compliments

Building children's self-esteem is key to PATHS so during the week in each class there is a star of the day (this may be called something slightly different in each class). The child will do special tasks throughout the day but most importantly be given compliments that are then recorded and sent home. A compliment is then also encouraged from home. The compliments from home are shared with the class and will then go into a special book in class.

Problem solving

PATHS is about feelings, understanding our own and others. That is OK to feel sad or angry but it's not OK to hit because of it. PATHS offers strategies to deal with problems that arise. In P1 and P2 this is through Twiggie (a little turtle), P3 upwards use traffic lights.

We will continue to keep you up to date with information regarding the implementation of PATHS throughout the year.



St. Mary's
Grammar School, Magherafelt.



GL Assessment Test Registration

Closing Date: Friday 24 September 2021 at 2pm

Download Registration Pack from
www.stmarysmagherafelt.com
Telephone: 028 79632320

Inspiring Excellence. Fulfilling Potential

The children will attend mass during the week.

P2/3 **Monday**

P3/4 **Tuesday**

P5/6 **Thursday**

P7 **Friday**

Mass at 9.30 am

can be viewed on the webcam by logging into:
<http://mcnmedia.tv/camera/st-michaels-lissan>

Guidance Flowchart for **Close Contacts** of a Covid case in a school setting 19/08/2021



Public Health Agency



- Please refer to updated guidance if you or your child is identified as a close contact.



Transfer Club – P7 Tuesday 3-4pm



Swimming P5/6 Wednesday

