



Welcome Back!

At the start of the new school year, I would like to welcome back all of our pupils. I hope you are all well rested after the summer and ready for an exciting school year ahead. I would like to especially welcome our Junior Infant children as they begin their Primary School adventure, and all other new pupils to St. Martin de Porres NS. We hope you will be very happy here. A very warm welcome also to Ms. McMorrough, who we are delighted to have back teaching with us, to our three new teachers Ms. Fox, Ms. O'Leary and Ms. Hayes and our new SNA, Laura.

~ Personal Accident Insurance and Contact Information ~

Personal Accident Insurance Policy application forms have already been distributed. We would strongly encourage all parents to join the scheme.

It is also extremely important that the Contact Information forms are completed and returned to the school by Friday, 20th September. This information enables us to contact you or a named emergency contact easily. If your child has any medical conditions we should know about, please enclose relevant details with the contact form.

~ Time Keeping ~

School starts at 9:00am sharp and finishes at 1:40pm (Infants) and 2:40pm (1st - 6th). Please ensure that children arrive on time in the morning and are collected on time at the end of the school day. Gates will open at 8:50am to allow children time to line up in the yard.

It has been noted that a number of parents are in the habit of collecting older children at 1:40pm when they are collecting infants. Please avoid doing this as it can be quite disruptive and causes children to miss out on valuable school time.

On rainy days (heavy rain), children will be allowed into the hall. Children will be supervised so for health and safety reasons, we ask parents to drop their children and leave as soon as possible to avoid congestion.

****Important**** If, for any reason, you need to collect your child early from school, please write a note to the class teacher and be sure to have your child signed out at the office.

~ Attendance ~

We would really like to work on school attendance this year. Missing a significant number of days from school has a detrimental effect on performance. Please ensure good attendance at school is maintained throughout the year, unless your child is seriously ill. Attendance will be monitored closely. Parents will be contacted, if necessary, and supported in helping to improve attendance.

~ Traffic Management and Access to the School ~

Please continue to arrive at the school via Heatherview Drive and leave by Carrigmore Road. This one-way system facilitates the flow of traffic at peak times to minimise disruption. Please do not park on the yellow lines at the entrance to the school or across residents' driveways.

For Health and Safety reasons, we must emphasise that there is **no access**, pedestrian or otherwise, to the school by the staff car park.

~ School Fees ~

We would like to thank those who have already paid their Educational Aids fees. We would appreciate if all outstanding fees could be paid as soon as possible. These fees help to cover the cost of photocopying, arts and crafts materials, teaching aids and tests and reports for your children. We have been able to keep these fees at the same price for a number of years, but rely on all parents paying to maintain this.

~ Uniform ~

Children must wear their uniform at all times. Full school uniform or school tracksuit will be acceptable. There are still some tracksuit sizes in stock if parents wish to place a late order. Please ensure your child's name is on their uniform and all school belongings. We are planning to review our uniform policy this school year.

~ Homework ~

Children from Junior Infants to 6th Class get homework Monday to Thursday. Below please find the recommended times children should be spending on their homework.

Junior/Senior Infants - about 15 minutes

1st/2nd Class - about 20-30 minutes

3rd/4th Class - about 30-40 minutes

5th/6th Class - about 45-60 minutes

If, for any reason, you need to speak with the class teacher, please make an appointment through the office.

~ Sacramental Dates ~

This year, First Holy Communion will take place on Saturday, 9th May and Confirmation will take place on Friday, 5th June. Further details of the *Do This In Memory of Me and You Shall be My Witness* programmes have been distributed to 2nd and 6th classes.

~ School Closures ~

Monday, October 28th - Friday, November 1st

Monday, December 9th

Monday, December 23rd - Friday, January 3rd

Thursday, February 20th - Friday, February 21st

Monday, March 16th - Tuesday, March 17th

Monday, April 6th - Friday, April 17th

Monday, May 4th and Tuesday, May 5th

Monday, June 1st, Tuesday, June 2nd & Wednesday, June 3rd

Mid Term Break

Teacher Training

Christmas Break (half day Dec 20th)

Mid Term Break

St. Patrick's Day Break

Easter Break (half day Apr 3rd)

May Bank Holiday

June Bank Holiday

We close for the Summer Holidays on Friday, June 26th 2020 at 12 noon.

~ Notes and Bulletins ~

Keep up to date on all of the exciting things happening in St. Martin de Porres NS by visiting our school website, www.smdpns.com