

St. Ronan's Primary School
Dec Update
2016

St. Ronan's PS (Newry)



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School Ethos

St Ronan's Primary School sets out to create a caring and supportive environment, where all children can develop intellectually, emotionally, physically, socially, morally and spiritually.

In addition, the delivery of the curriculum is designed to develop interest and motivation in children using enthusiastic teaching and interesting and relevant learning activities.

- Children are encouraged to achieve high standards and are given as much help as they may need in order to achieve success.
- There are many extra curricular activities that encourage co-operation and discipline through team games. Children are further encouraged through a variety of musical/dramatic productions to develop self-discipline.
- Within this context there is a code of discipline that is consistently enforced to ensure that the education of children take place in an orderly and caring environment.
- Through continual monitoring of individual children's achievements, class teachers provide work pitched at a level that challenges each child yet does not frustrate.
- Good relationships within the School are vital. The staff set an example by working well together with a harmony of purpose and providing an interesting and caring environment within their classrooms.
- As part of the pastoral dimension of the School, children are taught how to care for others, to respect other people's points of view and to respect property. Children are encouraged to contribute to charity and to help people who are less fortunate than themselves.

We are a catholic maintained co- educational school seeking to promote throughout the school community an ethos, which reflects the Christian teaching and values.

We see the school as part of the wider community, responsible to it and providing an important community service. We take seriously our links with the community and encourage the involvement and interests of parents and others in the welfare of individual children and the school as a whole.

We seek to provide an excellent educational service - one that is planned and developed to the highest professional standards so that each pupil may benefit to the full.

St. Ronan's Primary School
Dec Update
2016

Jan 2017 Important Dates

9th - school reopens
9th - P7 Mr Mclvor's class swimming commences
9th - P7 transfer packs out
9th - school dinners increase in price to **£2.35**
11th - closing date for P1 admissions 12pm
11th - Principal Abbey Grammar School visit to P7 boys
26th - P7 Service of Light 6.30pm in School Hall
28th -P7 Transfer Results out
30th - P7 Transfer Interviews begin

P3 Hometime

From the 9th Jan until the end of June, P3 will finish at the later time of 3pm.

Changes to pick up from Jan 2017

In order to further enhance our Child Protection and Pupil Safety, there will be changes to Pupil collection points. These changes mean that there will be no need for any parent to go around to the rear of the school after 9am. If children arrive at school after 9am they should use the main, front door.

From 9th Jan:

P2 - Mrs Patterson collection point, at 2pm will be from Resource Area 1 door.

Dry Weather

P3 pick up will be from the small P1 playground. Could all parents please wait here.

Wet Weather

P3 Miss Hughes class will be from her classroom door.
P3 Mrs Saunders class can be collected from Resource Area 1 door.

Primary 1 and Primary 2 Mrs Smith's class will be unaffected by these changes

Please do not walk across the main playground during P1 and P2 collection times especially when the older children are in the playground for PE. Use pathways provided.

Please make sure to inform the person who collects your child from School of the changes.

Schools responsibility for your child ends at the main school gate.

Parking and child safety

Once again can I remind all parents:

1. NOT to park in the turning circle. This is for drop off and pick up only. Parking in the turning circle creates traffic issues and endangers the safety of other adults and pupils. If you park here YOU will be asked to move. I would ask that you do this and DO NOT become verbally abusive to school staff who are acting under my direction. This is for the safety of all who are attending St. Ronan's P.S.
2. Use the visitor car park only.
3. Not to park either in Sacred Heart Bus bay or St. Clare's Convent car park. Neither of these belong to the school and I have received complaints from both about our parents using these.

St. Ronan's Primary School
Dec Update
2016

4. **NOT park on the drive up to the school.**

Unfortunately there are limited spaces at the school and on many occasions you will have to walk up to the school. This may be inconvenient but unfortunately there is nothing the school is able to do about this.

Mobile phones/Smart Watches/Mobile devices

In the interest of Pupil safety and Child Protection the school does not allow pupils to have personal mobile phones, mobile devices or smart watches in school (any device which is able to record, video or take pictures). If a child does have one of these in school it will be passed to the Principal and you will be asked to come and collect it from him. I am sure you are well aware the reasons behind this decision. Should your child need to contact you, the school is more than willing to do so and this will be done by one of the school secretaries.

Phone calls/meeting during Teaching Time

During teaching time teachers will not be able to take telephone calls from parents unless the matter is urgent. The School secretary will take your name, number and nature of the inquiry and the staff member will get in touch with you after school. Phone calls during class time disrupts the learning of pupils. If you wish to discuss any issue, about your child, with the class teacher or the Principal please make an appointment with the school secretary for after school.

Parents Association and Parental Support for school events

Could I thank all of you who attended our recent carol service in Saint Brigid's Church. This was a wonderful occasion for us all, as we gathered as a school and parish community, to celebrate the birth of Christ. It is extremely important that you, the parents support both our school and the school parents association especially in these difficult financial times. Your support is invaluable to us as we continue to build, strengthen and grow our school community. Catholic education is inclusive education and open to everyone of any faith or no faith. It is child-centred and centres on the uniqueness of the individual, rooted in the gospel values of truth, respect and tolerance. As a school we need your continued support in order to help us help your child achieve academic excellence.

Mobile telephone numbers

If you or any of your emergency contact numbers have changed could you please ensure that the school has the most up-to-date contact numbers. These should be given to the school secretary as soon as possible.

If there are changes to the adult who is collecting your child from school could you please let either the school office or the child's teacher know this also.

Breakfast Club

Breakfast club will be trialed during January and February please see the attached flyer. Please remember if your child is in school before 8.45am they should come to the school hall.

Financial Hardship

If you are experiencing financial hardship please contact the school to see how we can support you.

After school activities

Could all after-school notes please be returned to school by Tuesday 20th December with payment.

St. Ronan's Primary School
Dec Update
2016

Outstanding money

All outstanding money including dinner, after school and musical tuition must be paid by Tuesday, 20th December so that the school accounts can be audited and signed off by the board of governors.

Christmas Mass

The school mass for Christmas will be on Tuesday, 20th December at 10 AM. Everyone, this includes parents, grandparents, Aunts and Uncles, are welcome to attend please come along and show your support for the school and your child.

Christmas Party Day Lunch and special visitor

There will be a special Christmas party day lunch on Wednesday 21st December and there may also be a special visitor calling at the school.

Christmas School closing dates/non uniform half day

School will close on Thursday, 22nd December at 11 AM please make sure to collect your child punctually from school. This is a non-uniform day, your child is allowed to wear their ordinary clothes. School will reopen on Monday, 9th January 2017.

Increases to School Dinner prices

The Education Authority has just informed schools that effective from 1st January 2017 the cost of a school dinner will rise to £2.35, from 1st March 2017 will increase to £2.55 and effective from 1st September 2017 will raise to £2.60. The Education Authority did not consult schools on these increases. Any complaints about the increase in costs of school meals should be directed to Gavin Boyd Chief Executive Education Authority for Northern Ireland and also to the Minister of Education Peter Weir.

Free School Meal and uniform forms

If you think you are entitled to free school meals or a school uniform grant could you please contact the school secretary who will be happy to provide you with a form.

P1 Enrolment forms and closing dates

All P1 enrolment forms must be returned to the school by Wednesday, 11th January 2017 at 12 PM applications received after this time will be treated as late applications. All on time forms will get preference over late applications.

P7 Open Nights and Transfer Forms

Primary 7 pupils will be given a list of open nights for post-primary schools in January. These will be included in your transfer form pack, which will also be sent home at the start of January. Please make sure that all correspondence is returned by the deadline date set. Parental interviews for transfer forms will also be available please complete the timetable at the bottom of the transfer letter.

P7 swimming dates

Primary 7 Mr McIvor's class will be going swimming, starting on Monday, 9th January 2017. Primary 7 Ms McDonald's class will be going swimming, from Monday 27th February. Both swimming sessions will last for six weeks. Please make sure money is sent into the school as promptly as possible.

St. Ronan's Primary School
Dec Update
2016

Budget cuts

In the next financial year the school is expected to have to make around £40,000 worth of cuts/cost savings. This will have a major impact on the services that we currently provide to you and to your children. At the moment we are currently awaiting a new financial settlement from the Department of Education. This could actually decrease further the money available to run the school. More information will be made available to parents after Christmas.

Could I ask that you write to the Education Minister Peter Weir and also your local MLAs and MPs asking them to protect schools, especially primary schools, from further cuts to their school budgets.

Letters and website

All letters from the school will be posted on the school website.

School dinner menu

Copies of the school dinner menu are sent home with the eldest or only child at the school. Dinner menus are also available on the school website.

Uniforms and PE Days

School PE uniform should only be worn on PE days. At all other times children should wear full school uniform .

Parents' Notice Board

There is a parents noticeboard outside Miss Dawson's P1 classroom all information relating to the school will be posted on this noticeboard .

Twitter

Make sure to follow the school on Twitter @stronansps.

School Photographs

La Fayette (formerly County photography) will be in the school on the 17th, 18th and 19th of January to take both individual and class photographs more information will be sent to parents following the Christmas holidays.

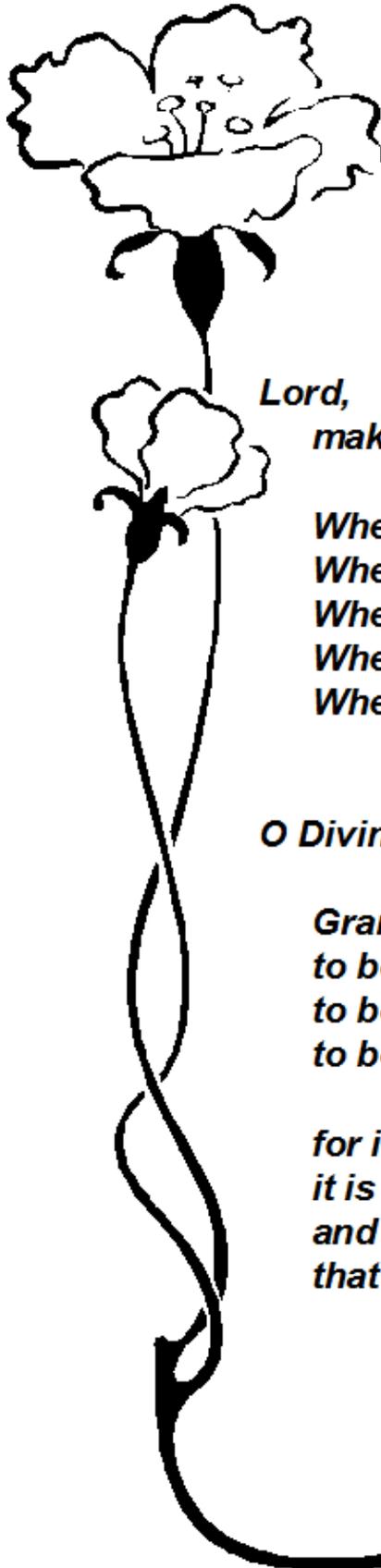
Milk Money

Term 2 milk money will be collected at the start of the new school term. The cost of this will follow by text.

Newry, Mourne and Down District Council calendars

The council has provided the school with a limited number of calendars. The eldest child in primary 5, 6 and 7 will be given one of these free calendars.

On behalf of all in St Ronan's Primary School I would like to take this opportunity to wish you a Happy Christmas and a Peaceful New Year.



***Prayer of Peace
(Prayer of St. Francis)***

***Lord,
make me an instrument of Your Peace***

***Where there is hatred, let me sow love;
Where there is injury, pardon;
Where there is despair, hope;
Where there is darkness, light;
Where there is sadness, joy.***

O Divine Master,

***Grant that I may not seek so much
to be consoled as to console;
to be understood, as to understand;
to be loved as to love;***

***for it is in giving that we receive;
it is in pardoning that we are pardoned;
and it is in dying
that we are born to Eternal Life.***

Amen.

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Dec Update
2016

We the Governors and Staff of St Ronan's believe the school to be a vital part of the Catholic Community. We are firmly committed to:

- the aims of Catholic Education
- providing a broad and balanced curriculum to ensure that our children develop their full potential
- developing positive relationships within our school and with our parents and the wider parish community
- creating a welcoming educational community centred on Christ so that His values and Gospel message pervade the whole life of our school
- establishing a caring Catholic ethos with a positive pastoral care system
- fostering within our children the ideals of tolerance of, respect and understanding for different faiths and cultures

Our School Values:

- Happiness and enjoyment
- Effort, attitude and perseverance
- Team, school and community spirit
- Honesty, fairness and trustworthiness
- Respect and tolerance
- Politeness, kindness and caring
- High standards of behaviour
- Partnership