




September 2024 Newsletter



We would like to extend a warm welcome to all our children and families as they return to school this September. We would also like to welcome all our new pupils who have joined our Nursery, Primary 1 and other primary classes throughout the school.



Family Prayer for Return to School


God our Father, we give you thanks as our children return to their school communities.

We entrust them to the tender care of your son, Jesus.


May they know that he is with them each day,
in their joy, in their learning,
and when they are unsure or afraid.

We ask your blessing on all who will support and encourage them throughout the year.

May we be guided by the Holy Spirit in the ways of Jesus, Amen.



**DERRY DIOCESAN
CATECHETICAL
CENTRE**



As a school community, we wish every family every blessing as we begin the new school year.

A special mass to mark the beginning of the new school year will be held on Friday 20th September at 1pm.



Why not take on a new challenge, learn new skills, have fun and make new friends at our after school clubs...

*All clubs must be signed up for before they commence...

Day	Club	Year Group & Time	Book/Pay
Monday	Mini-Professors Science Club	P1-P2 2-2.50pm P3, P4 & P5 3-3.50pm	Starting Monday 23rd September £34 for 8 weeks Book via ParentPay (20 spaces maximum for each session)
Monday	R9 Multi-Sports Club	P1-P2 2-3pm P3, P4, P5, P6 & P7 3-4pm	Starting Monday 23rd September £40 for 8 weeks Book via R9 Website https://www.cognitofirms.com/R9SportsCoaching/GoodShepherdPrimarySchool
Tuesday	Singing with Clodagh McCullough	P1 & P2: 2-2.45pm P3, P4, P5, P6 & P7: 3-3.45pm	Starting Tuesday 24th September £42 for 10 weeks (20 spaces maximum for each session) Book via Parent Pay
Wednesday	Dance with Skills Schools Dance	P1-P2 2-3pm P3, P4, P5, P6 & P7 3-4pm	Starting Wednesday 25th September £36 for 8 weeks (discount for siblings attending) Book directly here: https://www.cognitofirms.com/SkillSchoolNI/Dance
Wednesday	Guitar Lessons with Mark from leap lessons, Derry	Primary 5, Primary 6 & Primary 7 3-3.30pm & 3.30-4pm	Starting Wednesday 25th September Children will need their own guitar £42 for 10 weeks Book via parent pay This club is already full!
Thursday	Maiden City Soccer	P1-P2 2-3pm P3, P4, P5, P6 & P7 3-4pm	Starting Thursday 26th September Pay via Parent Pay £40 for 10 weeks Book via ParentPay



Please ensure that you download the Schools NI App which is linked to our website. Click on the ? on the app and ensure that notifications are turned on.



Learning starts at 9am every day. It is important that your child is punctual for school. School gates open from 8.45am. Breakfast club is open from 8.10am. Children arriving after 9am must enter the school via the school office. Thank you!



Swimming starts for both Primary 6 classes each Wednesday from the 11th September for 10 weeks. Children will need to bring with them their swimming gear and a waterproof coat with a hood each week as they will walk to and from the Foyle Arena.

Please pay £20 via ParentPay.

Please be mindful that there is no school crossing patrol currently available. Please ensure your child's safety in entering and exiting the school grounds. The Education Authority hope this post will be filled soon.



Safeguarding Information



In the interests of health and safety we now ask that children do not bring any shellfish products or nut products to school for either break or lunch. This includes Nutella.



We would like to take the opportunity to remind parents/guardians that **no cars are permitted inside the school grounds at any time** unless this has been pre-arranged with Mrs McCafferty or you are a blue badge holder- spaces are very limited. Please share this information with grandparents and childminders as refusal often causes offence.

Please ensure that the school gates are kept clear. Cars should not be parked on the yellow zigzag lines outside the school gates at any time. Please talk to your child about general road safety. Enter and exit the school using the pedestrian gates only. Once your child is collected from school, please keep them beside you at all times. These measures are in the interest of everyone's health and safety. Thank you!

Members of the Schools Safeguarding team are:

The Chair of the Board of Governors (Mr P. Duffy)

The Designated Governor for Child Protection (Dr M Gormley)

The Designated Teacher for Child Protection (Mrs Maria Harley)

Deputy Designated Teacher for Child Protection (Mrs S. McCafferty).

Other members of Safeguarding Team:

Mrs P. Houston/Mrs R Warne /Mrs Kyle/ Mrs A Kivlehan/Mr D Herron.

School policies can be found on the school website under the 'My School' section. There is also a wide range of support information for parents in the 'Parents Section' of the school website. This is updated regularly.

The school holiday lists can be accessed here:

https://storage.googleapis.com/siteassetsswd/475/docletter/20240220014414_63_Holiday_List_PARENTS_2024_2025.pdf

The new school dinner menu can be accessed here- please check which week we are on as there is a 4 week menu:

https://storage.googleapis.com/siteassetsswd/475/docletter/20240320013334_91_PS_Spring_Summer_24_P1-P7.pdf



We are delighted to share that our Primary 1, Primary 2 and Primary 3 classes will participate in the Musical Pathways to Learning Programme (MPL) every Friday. These music lessons are facilitated by a musical specialist: Mrs H. O'Hare.

The Musical Pathways to Learning Programme focuses on the main elements of music (beat, pulse, and rhythm) but it also focuses on creativity and expression. Therefore, the children involved in the project have access to consistent, high quality music provision which will provide an excellent foundation to instrumental learning or further studies in music. It also provides an opportunity for the children to explore communication skills and of course have fun!

The MPL programme has been shown to:

- help children find their singing voice.
- develop intellect and character
- develop imagination
- build self-esteem
- help children acquire self-discipline, awareness and tolerance
- develop social and communication skills



Brothers and Sisters after school provision (2-3pm) for Primary 1 & 2 children.

In order to support our school community, we will be offering afterschool supervision for children in Primary 1 (from Monday 23rd September) and Primary 2 (from Monday 2nd September) **who has an older sibling in Primary 3-7 currently at the school.** This will allow for 1 family pick up. Children staying should pack a healthy snack for this time. Please let your child's class teacher know if you want to avail of this service. Children should be collected by an adult **only**, from the canteen door (beside front reception area) at 3pm if they are attending. Book your interest here: <https://forms.office.com/e/UHJkuyZ3SB>



- Breakfast club will commence on Monday 2nd September for Primary 1-7 children, and then on Monday 25th September for Nursery children also.
- Breakfast club is open from 8.10am-8.30am. Children cannot attend breakfast club after 8.30am.
- **Please only send your child if they are independent when eating to ensure their wellbeing.**

- Children should be accompanied by an adult to the canteen door.
- Please enter the **school grounds via the upper nursery gate** and directly into the canteen via the steps located beside the school reception area.
- The cost of this will be £1 per day, per child. This should be paid in cash each day to breakfast club supervisory staff. This charge covers the cost of food, cleaning supplies and staff.
- Children will have a choice of toast, cereals, fruit juice and milk each day.

Important Dates in September:

Date	What's on?
Monday 2nd September	School starts for all P2-P7 children. Nursery & Primary 1 children have individual start dates.
Wednesday 4th September	Stringed instrument tuition restarts for specific P5-P7 children
Wednesday 11th September	P6 Swimming week 1
Thursday 12th September	R9 multi sports taster sessions in school
Wednesday 18th September	P6 Swimming week 2
Friday 20th September	1pm beginning of the school year mass @St. Columb's Church, Chapel Road
Monday 23rd September	After School Mini Professors P1 & P2: 2-2.50pm, P3 & P4: 3-3.50pm Week 1
Monday 23rd September	After School R9 Sports P1 & P2: 2-3pm, P3 P4 P5 P6 P7: 3-4pm. Week 1
Tuesday 24th September	After School Singing lessons P1 & P2 2-2.45pm, P3, P4, P5, P6 & P7 3-3.45pm Week 1
Wednesday 25th September	P6 Swimming week 3
Wednesday 25th September	After School Guitar Lessons P5, P6 & P7 Week 1 3pm-3.30pm & 3.30pm-4pm
Wednesday 25th September	After School Dance P1 & P2: 2-3pm, P3 P4 P5 P6 P7: 3-4pm Week 1
Thursday 26th September	After School Maiden City Soccer P1 & P2: 2-3pm, P3, P4, P5, P6 & P7: 3-4pm Week 1
Monday 30th September	'Children of Fatima' prayers with P4-P7

Thank you to our entire school community for your continued support.