

40 Steelstown Rd
Derry
BT48 8EX
028 71351830
www.steelstownps.com



School Newsletter

September 2018

Welcome back everyone! Hope you all had a lovely, restful summer. Welcome to all our new Nursery and our new Primary 1 children who are settling into the life of Steelstown PS so well.

Newsletters will be posted on the school website each month. Parents will be alerted by text.



Breakfast Club – is on each morning from 08:15am to 09:00am Primary 1 to Primary 7 children and families are welcome to attend. Primary 1 children are to be accompanied by an adult until they settle.



Transfer Test P7

P7 children have received a separate note about the registration process. Please note that late registration's will not be accepted.



Parking / Collection at home time

In the interest of health and safety, adults are asked not to park on the pavements outside the front entrance of the school as parking there is dangerous for the children walking on the pavement and flow of traffic is obstructed. We appreciate your support on this matter. In the interest of safety we ask parents to collect their child at the school gate in person.



Contact Details

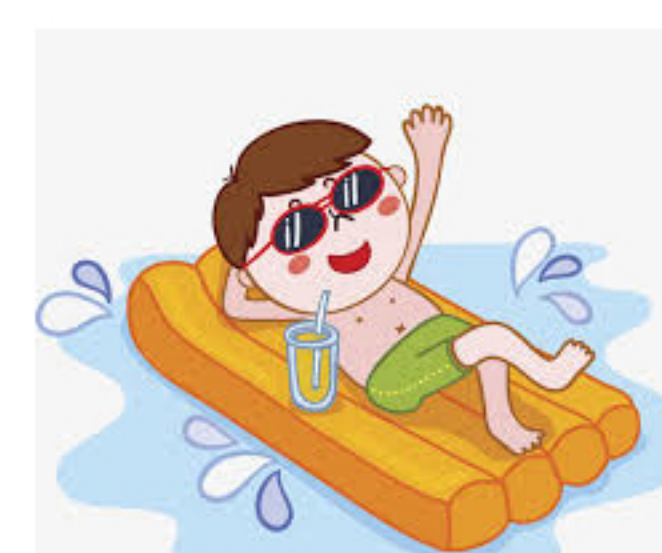
If you have changed your telephone number or address, please contact the school office so we can update our records and text system.



Welcome to Miss Rebecca O'Doherty who is teaching in Primary 4 and welcome to Mr Martin Crawley who is our new ICT Technician and clerical officer.



School Dinners – the cost of school dinners is £13.00 per week (£2.60 per day) If your child is entitled to free dinners, please ensure you have completed the form from EA. Even if your child will not be taking dinner everyday.



School Holidays and the School Dinner Menu has been uploaded to the school website.

If you require a paper copy of any newsletter or information, please call by office to collect one.



P1 and P2 Afterschool Club

Foundation stage after school club begins Monday 10th September, cost is £5 per week which is to be paid each Monday morning in advance. Snacks will be provided during the club.



Medical Updates

If your child's medical details have changed, please contact the school so we can update our records.

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SCHOOL ACCESS ARRANGEMENTS:

Unfortunately, due to a number of incidents last year and in light of advice from the Inspectors, the Board of Governors have felt it necessary to revisit procedures to be implemented to ensure the health, safety and welfare of all our pupils and staff in the school. Parents should note that the procedures outlined below should be adhered to at all times.

P.E

Your child needs to bring in suitable P.E gear (T-shirt, shorts/ tracksuit bottoms and trainers without laces). Please ensure your child's name is on all items of clothing.

ROAD SAFETY

- Pupils who come to school by car should be left off and collected at the pedestrian accesses. Additional parking space is available in Our Lady of Lourdes car park, which is within walking distance of the front gate. Parents are asked to be considerate of the residents of the houses near the school gates at Ardnamoyle Park and Steelstown Road, who are often inconvenienced by the volume of traffic around 9.00 a.m., lunch-time and home-time. Parents should not park on footpaths as we have had reports of children not being able to pass and having to walk on the roads which is a considerable safety hazard.
- Parents are asked to remind their children of the importance of taking care crossing the road on the way to or from school as we have had reports of children running across roads without looking and narrowly missing being knocked down.

HEALTHY EATING: Parents are reminded that Steelstown Primary School is a health promoting school and has a healthy breaks policy. P1 & 2 children are provided with a healthy break. P3–7 children should bring their own break to school. Please do not send any biscuits, bars, sweets, crisps or sugary/fizzy drinks for your child's break. Children should eat only fruit, vegetables, yoghurt drinks/yoghurts or a small sandwich at breaktime. We also encourage parents to provide healthy foods in your child's lunchbox. Those children having school meals will receive a nutritionally balanced meal as outlined in the Government's Nutritional Guidelines for School Meals.

CHARITY FOCUS: Our Friday morning charity focus for the months of September and October will be in aid the Foyle Hospice. Thank you for your generosity in the past.

P1

In the morning all P1 pupils must come into the school via the main school entrance or the entrance at the music room at the side of the building. Supervision is in place in the P1 shared area from 8.45 a.m. and children or parents are not permitted into either P1 classroom.

At 2.15 p.m., children should be collected promptly. Children from Mrs Crampsey's class can be collected at the back door beside her classroom. Children in Mrs McColgan's class are collected at the outer door beside her classroom. Children who are not collected on time will be taken to the front foyer of the school while they await collection.

P2

All P2 pupils must come into the school via the main school entrance or the music room entrance.

Supervision is in place in the assembly hall from 8.45 a.m. and children should be left at the hall where they will be collected by their teachers at 9.00 a.m. Parents are not permitted to go into P2 classrooms.

At 2.15 p.m. children will be accompanied by the teacher and/or classroom assistants to the front and back gates.

All P1 & P2 children must always be collected by an adult and the class teacher should be informed of any change in arrangements for collecting children at the end of the school day. Children who attend the after-school club must be collected by an adult at 3.00 p.m. from the mobile classroom.

P3–P7

P3–P7 children should enter the school via the main entrance or the back door at the top of the playground. Parents should leave children at these doors to make their own way to the classrooms.

Parents are not permitted past the foyer at any time. Messages for teachers should be given to staff in the foyer or in the office.

At 3.05 p.m. all children will come to either the front or back gates of the school for collection. Parents are asked to stay at the gates to avoid congestion and confusion at the exit doors.

After 9.10 a.m. access to the school is by the main entrance only. All parents/visitors must report to reception on arrival.

In special circumstances, alternative arrangements can be put in place, but only with the approval of the Principal or Vice Principal.

GENERAL GUIDELINES

- Parents must report to Reception for collection of children during the school day where they should sign the register for withdrawing pupils.
- If children are feeling sick or have been sick during the night, they should be kept at home until they are better. This avoids the spread of sickness within the class and school.
- Parents must not approach classroom doors at any time during the school day. P.E. gear, lunches and general messages should be given to the School Secretary, who will choose an opportune time to deliver them.
- If you wish to discuss an issue with your child's teacher, an appointment must be made through the office. All appointments with class teachers should be made after class time.
- If an urgent matter arises, you may speak to the Principal or Vice Principal by telephone or in person until 9.30 a.m. After this time an appointment must be made via the office.
- Children must not wear jewellery to school (i.e. earrings, necklaces, bracelets etc.), as these can cause injury during playtimes.
- Children should wear full school uniform and only plain black shoes to school. All coats, P.E gear and items of uniform should be clearly marked with the child's name.

ATTENDANCE: Regular attendance at school is essential for your child's progress. There is a direct relationship between irregular attendance at school and your child's progress and performance. All schools, primary and post-primary, have been tasked by the Department of Education to address underachievement, particularly in Numeracy and Literacy. As one of the factors affecting performance is attendance, we will be monitoring attendance closely for all pupils and contacting parents directly if attendance and late-coming to school becomes a concern. Parents should not take children out of school during term time for holidays.

E–SAFETY/MOBILE PHONES: Mobile phones are not permitted in school at any time. Mobile phones can be used by some children to tease and bully others via text messages and more seriously inappropriate images. If it is discovered that a child has a phone in their possession in school they will be asked to leave it in the secretary's office and collect it at home time. Parents will also be informed. In the case of a child having to contact home in an emergency during the school day, this can be facilitated by the school secretary. As you may be aware from recent media coverage, cyber bullying is also an increasing problem for our young people. It is illegal for any child under 13 to have a Facebook account.