



Welcome Back!

Dear parents, guardians, boys and girls,

We are so delighted to welcome you all back to school. As with every new school year, many things change. We say goodbye to some members of staff and welcome new members of staff. Sadly, this year, we are bidding farewell to Ms Browne, Ms. McDonagh and our SNA Niamh O'Connor. Some of our staff - Ms O'Loughlin, Ms Devlin, Ms O'Dwyer, Ms Fox and Ms Doyle will also be taking leave but we look forward to their return soon. We are happy to welcome Ms. McCormack and Ms Hoey to our Learning Support team, as well as our new SNA Sharon Pemberton. We are also delighted to welcome so many new children and wish to advise that some classes still have vacancies should you know of anyone looking for a place for their child.

~ Personal Accident Insurance, Contact Information & Aladdin Connect ~

We enclose Personal Accident Insurance Policy Application Forms. We would strongly encourage all parents to join this scheme. Please return this form by **Friday 17th September**.

****Important**** Now, more than ever, it is extremely important that we have the most up to date Contact Information for all families in our school. Please ensure the Contact Information Form enclosed is filled out and returned to the school by **Friday, 17th September**. Should a child need to be brought to the Isolation Room, we need to be able to contact you immediately. Also, this information may be required by the HSE for contact tracing purposes during the year. Families can update their own contact information at any stage through Aladdin Connect.

~ Time Keeping ~

School will continue to start at 9:00am sharp and finish at 1:40pm (Infants), 2:35pm /2.40pm (Middle/Senior Classes). Gates will open approx **08:50/08.55am** and children will make their way directly to their classroom. Once again, we have staggered some times this year for some classes to allow for greater social distancing and avoid congestion at school gates. It will be extremely important for children to be dropped to and collected from school on time. We have noted that a number of parents are in the habit of collecting older children at 1:40pm when they are collecting infants. We kindly ask everyone to avoid doing this as it can be quite disruptive and causes children to miss out on valuable school time.

****Important**** If, for any reason, you need to collect your child early from school, please write a note to the class teacher/inform the office. Any child leaving early must be collected from the School Reception. Similarly, if you have to make alternative arrangements for someone to collect your child on a particular day, please advise the school office.

~Behaviour~

As always, children are expected to adhere to the rules set out in the school's Code of Behaviour. Any pupils breaking rules/procedures put in place in our Covid-19 Response Plan, will be dealt with according to our Code of Behaviour.

~Illness~

****Important**** If your child or any member of your household presents with **any of the symptoms of COVID-19**, under no circumstances should children be sent to school. The school is not in a position to offer any health advice, so if you are unsure, please contact your GP immediately.

~ Traffic Management and Access to the School ~

Please continue to arrive at the school via Heatherview Drive and leave by Carrigmore Road if dropping children by car. 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 our residents' driveways. In order to adhere to current restrictions and to ensure the safety of parents, pupils and teachers, **we cannot allow parents into the yards or into the school building**. We continue to appreciate your cooperation with this. If you wish to speak to a member of staff, please arrange an appointment through the school office.

~ 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. Fees can be paid directly into the bank. Please use the following reference: "**Child's name + Fees**". Alternatively you can send it in with your child in an envelope to be given to the class teacher. A separate amount of €5.00 is required for a school homework journal and an SPHE scrapbook.

~ Homework ~

Our focus at the beginning of this school year will be to help the children to settle back into school life. Time will need to be spent gauging where the children are at regarding their learning. Homework will be gradually introduced at an age/stage appropriate level.

~ School Closure: (Actual days/dates the school is closed) ~

Mon October 25 th - Fri October 29 th	Halloween Midterm
Mon 6 th Dec	Discretionary School Closure
Thurs, December 23 rd - Wed, January 5 th	Christmas holidays
Thurs 24 th & Fri 25 th February	February Midterm
Wed 16 th , Thurs 17 th & Fri 18 th March	St. Patrick's Break
Mon, April 11 th - Friday, April 22 nd	Easter Holidays
Mon 2 nd May	May Bank Holiday
Fri 3 rd , Mon 6 th & Tuesday 7 th June	June Bank Holiday

We close for the Summer Holidays on Wednesday, 29th June 2022 @ 12 noon

SCHOOL OFFICE HOURS: 9am to 2.40pm (Monday to Friday)

~ Updates, 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 or our Instagram page, @stmartindeporresns.