



February 2024



A Fond Farewell to Fr D

When I first became Principal at St Paul's PS in 2008, I returned to an area I knew well from my student days at St Mary's University College. I was appointed in part by the parish priest at the time Fr Alexander. However, within a short while, a new Parish Priest was installed, one Father Anthony Devlin. Known by everyone as Fr Tony, little did I know what a huge part of my life he was to become.

From the very first meeting I had with him those many years ago, it was clear that we were going to get along just fine. We seemed to share a similar sense of humour and an energy to get too much done in too short a time. Fr Tony guided me through my first Principalship right up to 2015 when I left for pastures new. I didn't realise it at the time but after a few years, I again found myself back in the parish of St Paul's in the heart of the West. I was appointed Principal of our great school in October 2018 and once more my relationship with Fr Tony was renewed.

Fast forward to 20th May 2023. It was First Holy Communion Day at St Paul's Church and everything was as it should be. Little did we know how the coming hours would unfold. What started out as a day of celebration later became one of worry and anxiety when Fr Tony took ill on us. Over the coming weeks and months, we as a parish watched on with prayerful hope as Fr Tony began his long road to recovery. We ourselves knew that the most difficult thing in the world would be that he had to slow down and let time and expert medical treatment speed his recovery.

A number of weeks ago Fr Devlin called myself and Mr McNamee, the Principal of St Paul's, together to tell us the news that his time in St Paul's Parish would be coming to an end. For both of us, it was a shock but at the same time we realised it was the right thing for him.

Very few people get to see at close hand the work that a Parish Priest must perform. Not only his ministry duties but also as Chair of our Board of Governors. St Paul's is a huge parish in the heart of the City and with that comes many demands on time. Fr Devlin would never speak of or concern us with what he was dealing with on any given day or night. However, if he was to be in school, he made sure that he was there regardless.

As a chair of the Board of Governors, I have never known anyone who has assisted a Principal and a school staff as much as he has. His generosity is unparalleled and is extended to every member of staff. His characteristic organization of every one of the liturgical services is something we will remember him for with a smile. He was not a priest to just turn up on the day but he himself planned every single detail and ensured that he was the one to carry out every single rehearsal either in the church or in the school.

It is the children of the school that were his pride and joy and I suspect gave him the highest rewards of his work. He placed all the children at their ease and they enjoyed every time he visited the school either formally or informally. And it is the fact that he visited the school so often that stands him out as a person who cares deeply for the young people as the future of the church. The pupils' faith journey was all important to him. It is fitting that his last day in the Parish will be with our pupils celebrating their First Confession on 5th March.

For 15 years I have known Fr Tony as a Chair of Board of Governors, as a parish priest and most importantly as a dear friend. I can't imagine the parish without him being around and to play his practical jokes on me. However, I know the parishoners of Dunloy are so lucky to be receiving a wonderful faith leader, a mentor and guide and just a thoroughly good person. We wish him every success on his next adventure. Mr O'D.

For your
Calendar

P3 First Confession 5th March 2024
P4 First Communion 11th May 2024

School will close early at 12.30pm for
all pupils on Friday 1st March
following the school mass.

1st of March a Special Day of Celebration

Friday 1st March will be a sad day for all of us as Fr Devlin will be spending his last visit with us in the school. The pupils, staff and invited guests will come together to celebrate mass in the school assembly hall alongside his brother Fr Patrick Devlin and his family. The Board of Governors will also have one last meeting with our outgoing Chair on that day. Fr Devlin has asked the pupils be given a special treat of finishing early on this day. School dinners will be served as normal on this day and all pupils will finish school at 12.30pm to allow for the staff to have a final meeting with Fr Devlin.

P3 First Confession

As previously stated, Fr Devlin's last act as our Spiritual Director will be to conduct the sacrament of first penance with our P3 pupils. This will take place at 11.00am in the church. All parents are asked to be seated in the Church by 10.45am. Pupils will be walked to the church from school. As is the norm, pupils will be allowed to leave with their parents after the ceremony and have the rest of the day to celebrate with their families. We would like to thank all those parents who attended the ceremony of enrolment at the school earlier in the month. It was a beautiful occasion and was a wonderful way of preparing to receive the sacrament.

P7 Transfer Meetings

Over the course of the month of February, Mr O'Doherty had the pleasure of meeting with all the parents of the P7 pupils who are transferring to post primary school in September. It was very much appreciated that parents provided all the necessary information in order to complete the application forms online. Now it is an anxious wait until Saturday 18th May when the school allocations will be announced. At this stage it should all be emailed to parents via the same portal as the results have been given. Mr O'Doherty will be available in the school on the morning of the 18th itself to answer any queries you may have. P7 parents are reminded that the parent portal for editing information as evidence for applying for Post Primary will close on the 22nd February.

RSE Programme

As part of our ongoing commitment to the personal development of our pupils, St Clare's has invited 'Love For Life' to deliver 'Choices and Changes' to P6 and 'What's Inside?' to P7 in March.

This external input enhances what we already deliver in relation to RSE (Relationships and Sexuality Education).

Outside organisations, like Love For Life, support us in our delivery of RSE. This external input is welcomed by teachers and pupils - 100% of primary teachers surveyed by Love For Life would recommend the programmes to others and 100% rate the content of their programmes as 'excellent' or 'very good'.

The experienced and professional Love For Life team will create a safe and secure environment in which your young person can have engaging and respectful conversations about strong healthy relationships

We invite you to attend an information session on Monday 26th February at 1.15pm in the school hall. It is important that you attend so that any concerns or questions you have may be addressed.

Important Dates for the Diary

- 1st March- Early Finish at 12.30pm all pupils
- 5th March- First Confession at 11.00pm P3 Pupils
- 10th March- Do This In Memory Mass 12 noon P4
- 18th March- School Closed St Patrick's all pupils
- 28th March- Term ends at 11.00am no dinners.

Measles

Please see poster regarding immunization against Measles. Having been eradicated completely in recent years, there have now been some confirmed cases. It is vitally important that the MMR vaccination is received by all our children to protect against this potentially serious disease. Remember it is more than just a rash!!



Dear Parent or Carer,

As part of our ongoing commitment to the personal development of our pupils, St Clare's has invited 'Love For Life' to deliver 'Choices and Changes' to P6 and 'What's Inside?' to P7 on the 12 March 2024.

This external input enhances what we already deliver in relation to RSE (Relationships and Sexuality Education).

Love For Life has a long-standing reputation for engaging effectively in the specific area of RSE (Relationships and Sexuality Education). All of Love For Life's programmes are age-appropriate, offering accurate information in an engaging manner, helping children and young people to learn, reflect and develop in their knowledge, skills and attitudes in this important area.

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The experienced and professional Love For Life team will create a safe and secure environment in which your young person can have engaging and respectful conversations about strong healthy relationships. Below is a short description of the programmes:

Choices & Changes

An introduction for 9-10 year olds to the physical and emotional changes they can expect during puberty, offering support as they explore and develop an understanding about the choices and changes in their lives.

I trust that you, as a parent, guardian or carer, will be supportive of the programme and the school as we seek to address this very important aspect of our pupils' education.

We invite you to attend an information session on Monday 26th February at 1.15pm in the school hall. It is important that you attend so that any concerns or questions you have may be addressed.

Yours sincerely,

Mr O'D

MEASLES

It's more than just a rash

Get vaccinated with MMR

The Measles, Mumps and Rubella (MMR) vaccination is the safest and most effective way to protect against these diseases. You need two doses of MMR to be fully protected.

For anyone aged 12 months to 25 years who hasn't had one or both doses, catch-up vaccination is available.

For more information,
see www.nidirect.gov.uk/mmr



 mmunisation

Protect your child. Protect yourself.

EAT SMART WITH THE LUNCH BUNCH



WEEKS SERVED	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
19 February 18 March 15 April 13 May 10 June 2 September 30 September	Golden Crumbed Fish Fingers Corn of the Cob & Chips Ice-Cream, & Chocolate Sauce	Homemade Cottage Pie Spring Greens / Butternut Squash Oven Baked Potato Wedges Summer Fruit Cheesecake	Beef Meatballs with Tomato & Basil Sauce Or Bolognaise Green Beans / Baton Carrots Steamed Rice / Pasta Spirals Date Cake & Custard	Roast Gammon & Gravy Cabbage Mashed Potatoes Chocolate Delight	School "Chippy Day" Chicken Goujons / Nuggets Beans Chips Frozen Fruit Yoghurt
26 February 25 March 22 April 20 May 17 June 9 September	Baked Sausages Baked Beans Chips Ice-Cream & Two Fruits	Pulled Pork / Pepperoni or Cheese Pizza Coleslaw & Oven Roasted Garlic & Paprika Wedges Jaffa Cake Pots	Breaded Fish & Lemon Mayo Garden Peas / Diced Carrots Mashed Potato Vanilla Sponge & Custard	Roast Pork & Gravy Broccoli & Cauliflower Mashed Potato Fresh Fruit & Yoghurt	Beef Burger / Bean Burger in Bap Corn on the Cob / Coleslaw Chips Lemon Shortbread & Melon Wedge
4 March 1 April 29 April 27 May 24 June 16 September	Beef Bolognaise OR Lasagne Sweetcorn / Broccoli Pasta Spirals / Roast Potato Chocolate Cookie	Breaded Fish & Lemon Mayo Mushy or Garden Peas / Baked Beans Chipped Potato Raspberry Jelly & Two Fruits	Chicken Curry & Naan Bread Diced Carrots & Green Beans Steamed Rice Chocolate Sponge & Custard	Roast Beef & Gravy Baton Carrots Mashed Potato Golden Krispie Square	Hot Dog / Veggie Dog with Tomato Ketchup Spaghetti Hoops / Corn on the Cob Chips Ice-Cream & Fruit
11 March 8 April 6 May 3 June 26 August 23 September	Golden Crumbed Fish Fingers Baked Beans & Garden Peas Chips Homemade Flakemeal Biscuit	Beef Ragu Italia Sweetcorn / Diced Carrots / Coleslaw Oven Roasted Potato Wedges / Rice Vanilla Sponge & Custard	Chicken Curry & Naan Bread Garden Peas / Baton Carrots Boiled Rice / Roast Potato Arctic Roll and Peaches	Roast Turkey & Gravy Garden Peas & Carrots Mashed Potato Banoffee Pots	Chicken Goujons & Sweet Chilli Dip Spaghetti Hoops / Corn on the Cob CHIPS Fruit Muffin & Apple / Orange Juice

MILK, WATER, BREAD &
FRESH FRUIT AVAILABLE DAILY

IF YOU NEED ANY INFORMATION ON ALLERGENS OR HAVE SPECIAL
DIETARY REQUIREMENTS, PLEASE NOTIFY YOUR SCHOOL ACCORDINGLY

MENU SUBJECT TO
PRODUCT AVAILABILITY



World Book Day

Coming Soon

Summerhill Programme



summerhill foundation

4 week programme for parents

- Week 1 Nutrition and Healthy Eating
- Week 2 Play and Reading
- Week 3 Cost of living
- Week 4 Wellbeing

- Meet and discuss family life in a safe environment
- Pick up tips on how to become more confident in handling the daily pressures parents face

£20 gift voucher on completion

FRIDAY'S
1st March 2024
10am - 12pm
4 Weeks

WEDNESDAY'S
6th March 2024
7pm - 9pm
4 Weeks

It is our hope that this programme will allow families a happier home life and children will feel more secure as they are given the support and love to enable them to reach their full potential in life.

To book a place, on either programme, please telephone the Parenting NI Support Line:
0808 8010 722



Dear parents,

As the Lenten season arrives, we are looking forward to supporting our chosen charity Trocaire. Trocaire turns the compassion of people into life-changing support for some of the world's poorest people.

We are supporting Trocaire to help relieve poverty and tackle injustice around the world. This year the charity gives our students a window into the lives of families living in poverty, and the impact climate change is having on the world with all its challenges.

Our school is encouraging our pupils to actively engage in fundraising activities throughout Lent in support of Trocaire. Not only will they learn about global issues, but they will also be part of a positive and lasting change in countries all around the world.

Sponsorship forms will be sent home with children to help raise funds for the charity. Our children are encouraged to fundraise within their own family circle and not with neighbours or strangers.

We are always appreciative of your generous support.

Mr O'Doherty
Principal

Mrs Bell
RE Coordinator