

# St. Catherine's Primary School

Principal: Mrs. Bridget Wilders B.Ed. P.G. Dip.Ed. P.Q.H.

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## SENIOR SITE

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## WEEKLY NOTE - Monday 7th May 2018

Check us out on our website: [www.stcatherinesps.co.uk](http://www.stcatherinesps.co.uk)

Download Our **FREE** School App

St Catherines PS, Strabane



Facebook : StCatherines PrimarySchool



Follow us on Twitter : stcatherinesps



Follow us on Instagram : St Catherine's Primary School

## Mrs Kerr's Retirement

Mrs Kerr will retire from St. Catherine's at the end of this school year. Mrs Kerr was appointed as the First Vice Principal of St. Catherine's in 2014 and has previously been Vice Principal of St. Anne's Primary School as well as a long serving teacher.

She has been a fabulous asset to our school with her hard work, vision and belief that, together with the whole team, has helped us to be the school that we are! We will miss her but we know that she

will now embark on yet another stage of life's journey and can only wish her every good wish for health and happiness in her retirement!

We will have a very special Mass to celebrate the work and commitment of our First Vice Principal of St Catherine's in the Church of the Immaculate Conception on Friday 22nd June at 11am. We will give you further details about this in the coming weeks.

## Rotary Club Choir Competition DVD RELEASE!

DVD's of the Rotary Club choir event are now available to purchase for a wee souvenir at a cost of £5. They are available from the Clerical Officers on either site! They are just fab....a lovely souvenir!

*God bless you all! Bridget Wilders, Principal*

# News from Parenting NI

Parenting NI offer support for Parents through their Time For Parents Programme. It can be for one session or a series of sessions. Parents can talk to the counsellor about any issue relating to parenting including separation, domestic violence, dealing with addiction, handling children's behaviours and dealing with mental health and well being issues.

Parents can make contact with Parenting NI themselves by sending a text to 07887429054, registering online on the Parenting NI Website or school's can forward interest from parents on to the counsellor.

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## Year 7 Leavers PHOTOSHOOT with Strabane Chronicle

The Strabane Chronicle have requested a photoshoot with our Year 7 Pupils in their FULL WINTER UNIFORM with PLAIN BLACK SHOES (Girls...white knee length socks) .....on THURSDAY 10th MAY.

This will appear in the local paper shortly.

We respectfully request that all Year 7 Pupils wear their full winter uniform on this day. Thank you!

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## Attention Parents of Year 6 Pupils

Foyle College has sent information to us that they are hosting a meeting for the parents of Year 6 Pupils on Thursday 10th May at 7pm in Foyle College. The purpose of the meeting is an information evening regarding transfer for any pupils who would consider Foyle College as a Post Primary School for their child in September 2019.

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## Stay Safe.....Stay Out .... Quarry Safety Campaign

Every year, awareness is raised among younger children, teenagers, parents, teachers and youth workers about the dangers of entering quarries uninvited and unsupervised.

There is particular concern about teenagers who place their lives at risk by trespassing in both active and disused quarries. Over the years, too many have been killed or seriously injured. Indeed in 2013, during a two month period of exceptionally warm weather, six people drowned whilst swimming in former quarry sites across the UK and Ireland.

In partnership with the Health and Safety Executive for NI (HSENI), we now send out the attached letter that has been sent to principals to highlight these concerns.



Date 27<sup>th</sup> April 2018

Dear Principal

**Re: Quarry Safety Campaign “Stay Safe Stay Out”**

We are writing to you to ask you to support our national safety campaign which aims to warn young people about the dangers of trespassing in quarries.

Tragically, over the past few years a number of young people have been killed or seriously injured after entering disused or working quarries and got into difficulty in deep cold lagoons or on the steep rugged quarry faces. With warm weather and the summer holidays approaching, there is concern that children, teenagers and young adults could be tempted to enter their local quarry.

To help prevent this, QPANI, with the support of the Health and Safety Executive NI (HSENI), are promoting the Mineral Products Association (MPA) national “Stay Safe” campaign to raise awareness amongst younger children, teenagers, parents, teachers and youth workers about the dangers of entering quarries uninvited.

All too often after the death or serious injury to a young person in a quarry, their friends or parents say that they were not aware of the risks they were exposing themselves, they thought they were engaged in a harmless bit of fun. If the friends who were with them had understood the risks, they might have stopped them. This is why we believe that helping to raise awareness of these hazards will help to save young people’s lives.

We are appealing to you to help us pass on this important message to young people in your care - **“STAY SAFE... STAY OUT”** - so that they heed this warning that quarries (working or disused) are not fun places and that by trespassing they place both their own and their friends lives at risk. Fencing and warning signs are there to protect them, please do not ignore them.

The potential hazards that people expose themselves to are:

- Swimming in quarry lakes that can have very cold water even on a hot day in the middle of summer. Strong swimmers have drowned in quarries due to the unexpected impact that the extreme cold has had on their bodies.
- The water in quarry lakes can be very deep and shelving, exit from the water may only be possible in a few places, there may be pumps working or currents that can drag you under the water.
- There can be concealed underwater obstructions and other hazards that can seriously injure swimmers or individuals jumping into the water - tombstoning into quarry lakes is not safe.
- Tunnelling into piles of sand or playing on stockpiles exposes you to the risk of sudden collapses or movements that can easily bury you.
- Walking near the edge of quarry faces exposes you to the risk of serious falls as the edges can be unstable and collapse unexpectedly or sheer faces be obstructed by vegetation.
- Climbing or walking near rock faces can expose you to the risk of rock falls.
- Surfaces in quarries that may look solid, such as the surface of a silt pond, can suddenly break and act like quick sand sucking you down.
- Trail and quad biking in a quarry exposes riders to risks from unstable terrain, unexpected obstructions and being hit by moving plant.
- Young people on bikes or on foot may not be visible to operators of large machinery, they may not appreciate that the driver cannot see them.
- Quarries can often be located in remote sites where mobile reception is poor and there is no one on hand to help in the event of an accident

## **How you can help**

This issue is relevant for each school in the country - as there is always a quarry no more than 10 miles away.

Teachers and youth leaders are vital partners in the campaign to spread the message to young people that quarries are not places to play. Your support could help us save lives.

Resources are available online for Schools and Youth Groups to communicate this serious message and to discourage teenagers and children from trespassing in UK's quarries. Please view the Stay Safe videos, leaflets, posters and education materials. Go to [http://www.mineralproducts.org/youth\\_playsafe01.htm](http://www.mineralproducts.org/youth_playsafe01.htm)

Safety education is an increasingly important element of the National Curriculum. If you are able to build information about quarry safety into your lessons, you may like to use some of our schools resources. For general background on quarrying, visit our Virtual Quarry at [www.virtualquarry.co.uk](http://www.virtualquarry.co.uk).

One of the most effective ways of highlighting the dangers of quarries is to arrange a supervised quarry visit or to invite the local quarry manager to visit your school. Please don't hesitate to contact me if you would like help or advice in setting up a visit or to arrange a "Stay Safe" talk to your school.

I trust you will support us in delivering this vital safety message to young people, particularly in advance of the Summer Holidays.

Yours faithfully,



Gordon Best  
Regional Director QPANI



Ken Logan  
Principal Health and Safety Inspector  
HSE NI

**QUARRIES CAN PRESENT A REAL THREAT AND IN ORDER TO  
STAY SAFE YOU SHOULD STAY OUT!**

**THE DANGERS:**

- Steep vertical drops
- Freezing water
- Falling rocks
- Heavy machinery
- Silt ponds that act like quicksand



'Stay Safe... Stay Out of Quarries' is on

<https://www.facebook.com/StaySafeStayOutOfQuarries>

# Summer Uniform

Every Year around the beginning of May we switch to our Summer Uniform..... weather permitting of course! Children may wear their Summer Uniform from Tuesday 8th May onwards .... Hopefully the weather will reflect SUMMER!

Our Summer Uniform is as follows.....

**Girls:** Blue/ White Summer Dress , white socks (full length or ankle socks) and black shoes. Current school jumper or cardigan can also be worn with their dress.

**Boys:** Plain white poloshirt, PLAIN NAVY Shorts or school navy trousers, black/ navy socks, black shoes or PLAIN BLACK Trainers. Current school jumper or cardigan can also be worn.

It is to be noted that our Summer School Uniform is NOT compulsory and parents need not feel under any pressure to purchase it. If parents do not wish to use the Summer Uniform the current uniform is fine. Many thanks!

It is to be noted also that little Nursery Pupils (poloshirt with logo, sweatshirt with logo and navy jogging bottoms) wear the same Uniform all year round.

## Summer Uniform

### Girls



Light blue and white checked dress

White full length/ ankle socks



Children can wear their Jumper/ Cardigan all year round

### Boys



White polo shirt  
Navy trouser shorts/ trousers  
Navy/ black socks

All children should wear plain black shoes/ trainers

# MORE Uniform NEWS!!

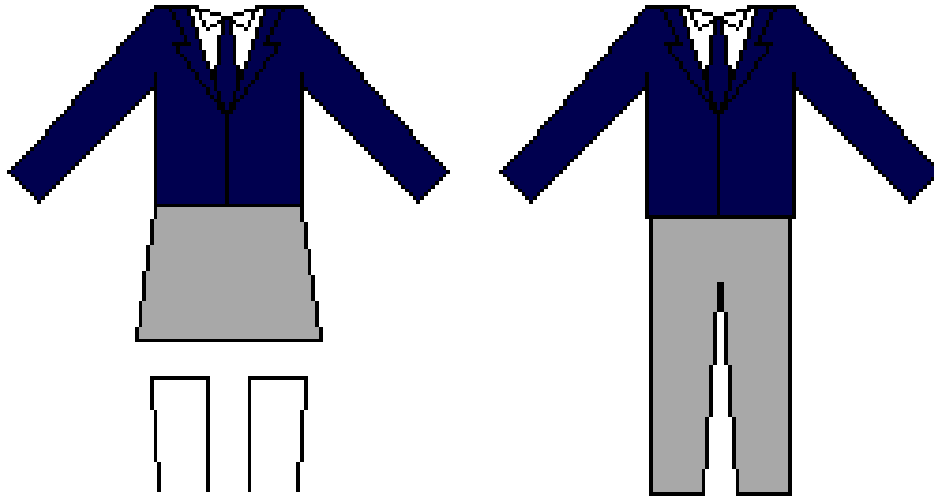
As you know, our Uniform Supplier is SELECT KIDZ who are based in Derry.

They have asked us to let parents know that they have now moved premises to their new shop at 105 Spencer Road, Derry BT47 6AE.

The staff from Select Kidz will be running

a Uniform Savings Club again this year in St Catherine's for any parent who would like to join.

Parents report to us every year that they like the idea of saving for the uniforms and for getting the chance to fit children with items in the school



To this end, Staff from SELECT KIDZ will visit our school on the following dates to run the Uniform Savings Club:

- Wednesday 2nd May 9.30am-10.30am in the Assembly Hall in the JUNIOR SCHOOL
- Wednesday 16th May 9.30am-10.30am in the Assembly Hall in the JUNIOR SCHOOL
- Wednesday 30th May 9.30am-10.30am in the Assembly Hall in the JUNIOR SCHOOL
- Wednesday 13th June 9.30am-10.30am in the Assembly Hall in the JUNIOR SCHOOL
- Wednesday 27th June 9.30am-10.30am in the Assembly Hall in the JUNIOR SCHOOL

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## Uniform DEALS May/June!!

### Boys

1 X Trousers  
2 X Shirts  
1 X Jumper  
£35

### Girls

1 X Kilt  
2 X Blouses  
1 X Jumper  
£55

*Come to meet Select Kidz Staff at any of the Savings Club Sessions for further information.*

# Lego Competition

Children are invited to bring their LEGO creations to school to show them to their friends and staff this week. Creations will be adjudicated on Friday 11th May looking for creativity and detail in each masterpiece! Good luck everyone.....this has been completed in previous years and has been so successful! Lego is a fabulous activity for children which enables so much creativity, skill and total enjoyment! Well done to pupils and parents for encouraging this hobby!!

## P6 TRANSFER TESTS HOLIDAY PACK

Dear Parent/ Guardian

Fairfields have been producing practice papers for the N.I transfer tests for over 25 years and are one of the most popular publishers of these materials on the market.

We publish a "Holiday Pack" which literally thousands of children have found to be of benefit to them over the holidays.

The pack contains 10 Tests, a Parent's Guide and Answers.

Individuals may order these directly from us at £28 per pack but your school has opted to collect the money and distribute the packs on our behalf. Therefore we can offer them to you at an extremely generous discounted price of £12.

If you wish to order a pack, please send in your payment of £12 to the school.

Yours faithfully  
Fairfields



Parent, Teacher,  
Friends Association  
**Working together  
for our children**



**Come along and join in our PTFA Meetings . . . . craic  
is good . . . . be a part of helping your child's school!**

**Next meeting is Thursday 10th May  
at 7pm in the Junior School.**

# End of Year School Trips for our Pupils

Every year our children enjoy their End of Year Trip with their classmates and their teacher. The details are given below.

Year Group	Day	Date	Venue
1 & 2	Tuesday	12th June	Lesiureland Redcastle, Moville
3 & 4	Tuesday	12th June	Brunswick, Derry
5	Wednesday	13th June	Brunswick, Derry
7	Thursday	14th June	Brunswick, Derry
6	Friday	15th June	Brunswick, Derry

Year 1 and 2 pupils will enjoy all the rides free at Leisureland and a meal as well as the cost of the bus.....a great day out!

Year 3-4 pupils will enjoy a fab play session in Bananas, a movie in the Cinema and a meal.....fun fun fun!!

Year 5-7 pupils will enjoy a game of bowls, a movie in the Cinema and a meal.....great craic for our older pupils!!

The cost of the trip for each child is £14. This includes all the activities mentioned above. If you would like to book a place for your child on their class trip please sign the attached booking form and send the fee or a deposit to their class teacher by MONDAY 21st MAY .

#stcatherinesonthemove

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## Collection Times for Children

Year	Collection Time
1	2.15pm
2	2.20pm
3 -7	3pm

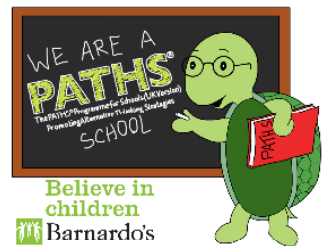
We understand that from time to time children need to attend medical appointments during the day or occasionally have an exceptional reason where they need to be collected early however we respectfully request that all children remain in school for the full day. Thank you for your support and understanding.



# **PATHS Programme in St. Catherine's (Promoting Alternative Thinking Strategies)**

## **PATHS Quote of the Month - May**

***Good manners are GOOD for you! They almost always come with a smile and sometimes even a hug. They are like boomerangs, when you send them out with good intentions, they nearly always come back the same way. Send out your good manners today!***



## **Prayer of the Month May**

### ***PRAYER TO MARY***

***Mary, mother of Jesus,  
I want to live and love like you  
I want to love the Father  
I want to love like Jesus.***

***Mother of Jesus, blessed are you.  
Mother of Jesus, my mother too.  
Help me to live like Jesus  
And help me to live like you.  
AMEN***



ST. CATHERINE'S ADULT CHOIR  
FEMALE SINGERS WANTED!

**STAFF & PARENT  
CHOIR 2018**



Dear Parent/ Guardian,

Mrs Deery is putting together an adult choir for a very special celebration at the end of June. If you would like to be in it, and can commit to 3 x Wednesday afternoon rehearsals in June (times to be confirmed), then please return the slip at the bottom of this letter.

The Choir will consist of members of staff plus any Mums or Grannies who would be interested!

Kind Regards

ST. CATHERINE'S ADULT CHOIR

Name of Parent/ Grandparent: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/ Grandparent of: \_\_\_\_\_ Class: \_\_\_\_\_

Mobile Number: \_\_\_\_\_  
(for general correspondence)

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
(music will be emailed in advance of rehearsals)

Please return this slip to the class teacher by Monday 14th May.



## End of Year Trips

I would like to book a place for my child on the End of Year Trip this Year and I enclose the payment below.

Full payment £14

Deposit £5

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Gaurdian of: \_\_\_\_\_

Class: \_\_\_\_\_

Teacher: \_\_\_\_\_



# Fairfields P6 Transfer Tests Holiday Pack

Please find enclosed £12 as payment for the Fairfields  
P6 Transfer Test Holiday Pack.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Gaurdian of: \_\_\_\_\_

Class: \_\_\_\_\_

Teacher: \_\_\_\_\_