



14<sup>th</sup> October 2020

Following the latest direction from the Department of Education, school will finish on Friday 16<sup>th</sup> October (normal times) and reopen on Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> November.

**Please see below for information on how this will affect events planned for next week.**



## Parent-Teacher Interviews

### Parent Interviews

Parents interviews will not take place this autumn and alternative arrangements were detailed in the newsletter of 12<sup>th</sup> October. Due to the extended Hallowe'en closure announced today, tests and IEPs will be sent home this Friday, 16<sup>th</sup> October.

### Flu Vaccination

The flu vaccination was due to be administered on Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> October. If you have not returned the vaccination form for the school nurse, please return it tomorrow. We have been in contact with the SE Health Trust and at this stage they are awaiting guidance and we will inform parents as soon as possible.

### School Meals

Any meals already paid for can be carried over until after the half-term break.

### Free School Meals

The Education Authority has extended the deadline to apply for free school meals until 2<sup>nd</sup> November. We would encourage any parent whose child is eligible for free school meals (even if they don't use them) to apply as this affects our budget. It also means that a child can avail of a meal at any time during the year, whatever the circumstances.

### PTA News

- Due to the early Hallowe'en closure, we are holding the raffle a week earlier on **Friday 16<sup>th</sup> October. Please send any items into school by Friday morning.** Hamper tickets (50p per strip) are on sale until Friday.



- **Hallowe'en Non-Uniform Day**

As you know, we had planned to hold this on Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> October. With the early school closure, the teachers have again decided that they don't want the children to miss out on the fun that they look forward to so much at this time of year. We realise this is short notice, but we will run the Year 1-4 parties in school on **Friday 16<sup>th</sup> October**, with the classes operating separately within their class 'bubbles'. Years 1-4 will be timetabled for the hall and will play party games and have refreshments. Year 5-7 will have a small party in their own classrooms. All children can come to school in fancy dress (it doesn't have to be a Halloween costume) or own clothes. Please send in £2 with your child by Friday – thank you.

- **Christmas Cards** – Your child will be designing their own Christmas card (may be completed for homework) which will be sent home in November. Please return your order by **Monday 16<sup>th</sup> November**; please note wrapping paper and gift tags may **only** be ordered along with a card order and not separately. **As orders will be sent for printing immediately, late returns cannot be accepted.**



## M & M Pantomime Production

Unfortunately, this has had to be cancelled.

## Year 1 collection time

Remember, Year 1 are now collected at 1.45 pm.



## Sponsored Walk



So far £2380.50 has been raised for the school. Thank you so much to everyone who contributed, to all the children who collected money and also to the staff who organised the day and helped to make it such an enjoyable event! The money is used to provide class supplies, so every child benefits. **Remember - “every little helps!” and we hope that every family will contribute, especially as other activities will have to be cancelled.**

Any outstanding contributions should be sent into school by Friday 16<sup>th</sup> October.

## Royal British Legion

This year, to allow for quarantine, the Legion has made up individual bags with various items for the pupils, cost £2. We also have a variety of metal pins at £3 – ‘2020 poppy’, ‘poppy and shamrock’ and ‘VE75’. Numbers are limited and items will be on sale until 6<sup>th</sup> November.



## Christmas Craft Fair



Unfortunately, we are unable to hold our Craft Fair this year. However, we are organising activities for the children during school and further information will be available shortly.

## Birthday Cakes

Many parents like to send in a birthday cake for the class on their child’s birthday. If you are sending in a cake, please also send in napkins. Please also ensure that it is nut free.

## Reading Books

Parents are reminded that there is a minimum charge of £5 for lost or damaged reading books.

## Emergency Home Learning Packs – Year 3 - 7

Thank you to everyone who contributed £5 towards these packs which have now been prepared for your child and will be sent home after the Hallowe’en holiday. They will be used should a class need to self-isolate or the school have to close. Hopefully this will not be necessary and we can use these later in the year for general learning and homework! Please do not open the pack – store it in a safe place until required. It cannot be replaced.

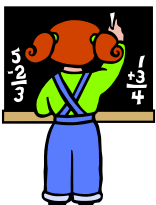


## Pupil Absence

Please telephone the school office or send an email if your child is off. As all absences are recorded and monitored by the Education Welfare Officer, a reason must be provided.

## Year 1 (starting Sept 21) Information Session

We usually hold an information session during December for prospective parents where there is an opportunity to view the school, meet staff and receive information. However, due to COVID-19 restrictions, we are unable to have visitors to school at this time. The Education Authority has informed us that the opening date for applications is Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> January and the closing date is Friday 29<sup>th</sup> January. Further information and the Prospectus will be posted on our website in due course.



## Medication

Please complete a "Permission to Administer Medication" form if you wish your child to receive ANY medication in school. This can be downloaded from the website or obtained from the school office. Please do not send medication into school with your child without the accompanying form, and all medication should be handed directly to an adult. Do not send it with your child or in their bag.

## Morning and Afternoon Clubs

Thank you to everyone who expressed an interest in the Clubs. We have been considering the feasibility of these clubs, however, with the announcement of enhanced restrictions by the NI Executive, it remains unlikely that we will be in a position to restart these for some time yet.

## Communication and APP FOR MOBILE PHONE

Many parents have downloaded the mobile app and are finding it useful to have school information at their fingertips! If you have not downloaded the app, we encourage you to do so - it is free from the store on Android or iOS and will include information such as current news, newsletters, prospectus and documents. We will also use this as the primary means to send messages to parents rather than a text message – text messages are charged to the school and are limited to 150 characters. **In these ever-changing circumstances, we encourage all parents to download the app so that you will receive notifications immediately.** Details of how to do this are in the Newsletter of 28<sup>th</sup> September and on our website. We trust this will be helpful in communication between school and home, especially as we are trying to limit the amount of paperwork sent home. Our website remains our main source of information and we encourage parents to check it on a regular basis. It is the parents' responsibility to read the information provided by school.



## Dates to Remember

- Friday 16<sup>th</sup> October - Hallowe'en Parties (£2)
- Friday 16<sup>th</sup> October - School finishes at **normal times** for all pupils.
- 19<sup>th</sup> – 30<sup>th</sup> Oct - School closed for half term.
- Monday 16<sup>th</sup> November - Deadline for return of Christmas cards, orders will be posted immediately.
- Monday 21<sup>st</sup> December - School finishes at 12.15 pm for pupils in Years 1-3 and their siblings. All other pupils finish at 12.25 pm. No dinners available.