



# Dromara Primary School



26th November 2020

**REMEMBER: UPDATES ARE ON THE APP, WEBSITE AND CALENDAR – PLEASE CHECK REGULARLY**

ALSO 'LIKE' OUR FACEBOOK PAGE



## Dromara Primary School App

The App has proved popular with parents. It is particularly useful to send notifications per class and also allows parents to access news/newsletters easily. We encourage all parents to download it as we will use the notification function rather than sending text messages. **This is especially important as, depending on Covid-19 regulations, arrangements may need to be changed at short notice.**

## Festive Fridays

Unfortunately, we are unable to hold our Christmas Craft Fair this year. However, we don't want the children to miss out on some of the fun and enjoyment that they would usually have at this time of the year. So, we have decided to have Festive Fridays each Friday in December as shown below:



Date	Classes	Activities
<b>Festive Friday 1</b> 4 <sup>th</sup> December	All classes	Games Room: including Penalty Kicks, Chopstick Challenge, Duck Pond, Hit the Santa, Darts, etc. <b>£3</b>
<b>Festive Friday 2</b> 11 <sup>th</sup> December	Y1-3	'Craft Rooms' – pupils will make an item of Christmas Craft to take home. <b>£2</b>
	Y4-7	'Elf Room' – pupils can choose a gift for mum or dad to wrap and take home. <b>£2</b>
	All classes	Mrs Reain will also have her usual stall featuring 'Lego'.
<b>Festive Friday 3</b> 18 <sup>th</sup> December	All Classes 	Non-uniform Day – this is a '2-for-1' as children can also come to school on Monday 21 <sup>st</sup> in non-uniform! <b>£1</b> . Wear a Christmas Jumper/Christmas Accessories! 'Photo Booth' – optional for any children who would like fun photos with their friends from their class ( <b>£1 extra</b> )

During December, we will also run our old favourites, such as 'Name the Bear' – 20p for one guess, 50p for three guesses; 'Fireside Quiz' – copies will be sent home and £2 per entry returned.

## COVID-19 Information

Thank you to all parents who have kept the school informed of changes to circumstances at home and, in particular, where there have been any suspicions of contact with positive COVID-19 cases or children/parents who had any potential symptoms. Please keep up this positive communication. Also – a huge thank you to those parents/carers who are dropping off/collecting children and are wearing face coverings. These precautions are helping to ensure that everyone in our school community remains safe and well.

## Christmas Cards and Gifts

At this time of year, many children like to bring in Christmas cards for friends. We are permitting children to bring in cards, but they should only be for pupils within their own classroom. If they bring them in, they should be given to the teacher, who will 'quarantine' them for a couple of days before they are distributed. It would also be advisable if cards were not sealed by licking.

Many children also, very kindly, bring gifts for staff – there is no need, even though we do appreciate the kindness. Instead, if parents wish, a donation can be sent for the Dromara Primary School Fund and we would also be happy that the children have money with them to enjoy the Festive Fridays. Thank you.

**Pupil Reports** - Outstanding reports must be returned to the teacher by tomorrow, 27<sup>th</sup> November.

## Sponsored Walk



Our Sponsored Walk raised £3238, a fantastic total. Thank you again to everyone who contributed, especially as our normal fundraising activities have had to be curtailed this year.

### Extra-curricular Activities and Clubs

Considering the current Northern Ireland restrictions, we are still unable to provide extra-curricular activities or Morning and Afternoon Clubs. This will be kept under review with the hope that at least some Clubs may reopen during January. A number of pupils have money carried over for Clubs from March. If you are happy to use this when Clubs reopen, Mrs Watson will confirm the amount at that time. However, if you wish to receive a refund, please contact the office by email. Refunds will be issued by cheque.



### Christmas Dinner

Unfortunately, due to Covid-19 restrictions, we are unable to hold our usual pupil Christmas Dinner this year.

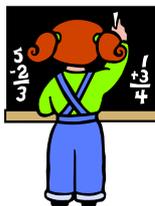


### Request for Soap

Due to the amount of hand-washing taking place in school, we would ask parents to send in 2 liquid soap per family. Thank you to the Year 3 parents who sent in soap as requested at Hallowe'en - if you sent in soap at that time, 1 more would be appreciated.

### Emergency Home Learning Packs – Year 3 - 7

These packs have now been sent home – please do not open the pack, store it in a safe place until required. It cannot be replaced. 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! Pupils in Years 1 and 2 have a file of photocopied material.



### 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. Further information and the Prospectus are available on our website and app and we will also upload a 'virtual Open Day'.

Applications are made online via the Education Authority website ([www.eani.org.uk](http://www.eani.org.uk)). EA has informed us that the opening date for applications is Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> January at 12 noon and the closing date is Friday 29<sup>th</sup> January at 12 noon. Any application after this date is considered 'late', whether or not you have a child currently enrolled at Dromara Primary. Birth certificates and any requested supporting documentation should be taken to your first choice school as soon as you have applied. We would appreciate if you could share this information with any family or friends who may wish to enrol their child in Dromara Primary.



### Dromara Pre-School Open Evening

Current guidance does not permit Pre-School to have their annual Open Night in December. If you know of any parents with young children who will be of age to register for Pre-School enrolment in September 2021, please ask them to contact Julie Corbett, Pre-School Leader. Information can be found on the Pre-School page of our website, [www.dromaraps.org](http://www.dromaraps.org).

### Virtual School Tour

As we are unable to hold an Open Night this year, we thought it would be useful for prospective parents to be able to see around the school online. One of our parents, Malcolm Monteith, is very kindly helping us out with this. We will take some footage of the children working in class, playing, etc and put together a short virtual tour of the school, which will be posted on our website. As all parents have already agreed to images being used by the school there is no need to do anything, but if you wish that your child should not be involved, please let the school know immediately, as filming will take place on Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> December. As usual, no children will be identified by name.

## PTA News

- Thank you for your support with the Hallowe'en hampers. We raised a huge amount of money, £396, so thank you for your generous contributions and the winners were very happy indeed!
- If you forgot to send in £2 for the Hallowe'en Party, please do so tomorrow. £300 has been raised.
- Christmas Cards have been received and will be sent home over the next few days.



## School Closures

There have been rumours of schools closing early for Christmas (possibly on 11<sup>th</sup> December). To date the school has not been informed of any such directive and currently our closure dates and reopening dates remain as published earlier in the year. If there are any changes, we will inform you immediately, although you will probably read about it in the media first!

Dinners w/c 4<sup>th</sup> January can be booked/paid on the day we reopen after Christmas holidays. Following weeks should continue to be booked/paid for on Mondays. Thank you for your help with this.

## Dates to Remember:

- |  |   |   |
|--|---|---|
| December Festive Fridays                   | - | As shown at the start of the newsletter                               |
| Mon 21 <sup>st</sup> December              | - | School finishes at 12.15 pm for children in Years 1 – 3 and siblings; |
|  | - | School finishes 12.25 pm for remaining children in Years 4 – 7        |
| 7 <sup>th</sup> – 29 <sup>th</sup> January | - | Year 1 applications open – further details on the website             |

