



Drumahoe Primary School – Parent Memo: September 2023



It has been wonderful seeing all of the pupils returning to school and I trust your children have settled well and will have a fun filled year at school. Thank you to all our parents/carers for ensuring the children look super in their uniforms and for helping to make the return to school run so smoothly.

P1 & New Starts:

A very big welcome to our new P1 and later this month, Reception, pupils who have embarked on their “magical journey” through primary school. We also extend a very warm welcome to all the new pupils throughout the school who have also recently joined us, especially those in the ASC and LSC. We would also like to say a massive welcome to the pupils in the Preschool who we will be working with more closely this year as part of our Drumahoe family.

Staffing:

On behalf of the Board of Governors, I would like to point out the following staff changes: Miss Amy Caldwell will be teaching P5B on Wednesdays and Mrs Gillian Cooke will be teaching P4B on Fridays. This is to cover the flexible working arrangements in place for staff and SEN cover for Mrs Johnston, our SENCo.

Pantomime:

This year again, we have decided not to attend the Millennium Forum to see the pantomime at Christmas time. This is due to the success of holding the pantomime in school last year. ‘Snow White’ will be performed for the children in January. More information on this will be with you closer to the time.

Uniform:

Please ensure that all pupils adhere to the regulations for proper footwear and clothing for P.E. lessons. I would ask that you make sure your child has a white polo shirt, black shorts and a change of gym slippers (kept in school) on their designated P.E. day. **Earrings are not permitted**, except for children with pierced ears, who may wear studs on those days when they do not have swimming or P.E. On swimming and P.E. days studs **should not** be worn. Please also ensure that pupils wear **black** training shoes with their P.E. Uniform. Other items of uniform i.e. sweatshirts, polo shirts, ties etc. are held as stock items in school and can be purchased from the Front Office. Please note that red jumpers should be purchased from school only.

Please ensure that all items of clothing (school uniform/P.E. Uniform) and footwear (P.E. Slippers) have the owner’s name clearly marked upon them. We still waste a considerable amount of time in school trying to establish the ownership of numerous items of identical uniform which do not have the owner’s name on them!

Main Entrance Door:

Please note that the Main Entrance door at the front of the school is for the use of Staff & Visitors only. Please use the side doors to drop off children and to exit the building.

Packed Lunches/Healthy Munch Box Challenge/Healthy Break:

The various lunch-box trolleys assist the school in making the dinner-time arrangements run very smoothly. To ensure that these arrangements remain effective, it is necessary that all lunch-boxes are clearly marked with the owner’s name on the **outside** of the box. Please also ensure that you try to make your child’s mid-morning break and packed lunch as healthy as possible.

Water Bottles:

In the interests of health & safety, if your child brings a water bottle to school, which we encourage, could you ensure that it is clearly named & periodically cleaned to avoid any potential health risk.

Prefects:

The Prefects for this half-term are: Tomiwa Akinrinsola, Callum Bradley, Elena Gallagher, Renae Parkhill, Scott Hanna and Riley Smith. The work that the Prefects do around the school is greatly appreciated by everyone and it is pleasing to see how the senior pupils respond to their responsibilities.

Class Information Leaflets/Meet the Teacher:

Each teacher has prepared and distributed their information leaflet detailing how their class operates. Please take time to go through this with your child so as there is no confusion as to what is expected from their class teacher. Each class will also be organising a ‘Meet the Teacher’ afternoon to give you the opportunity to hear directly from your child’s teacher what the class expectations are and also to give you the opportunity to ask any questions you may have. Each teacher will notify you directly of the time and date of their meeting.

P6/7 School Trips:

This school year the P6 Residential Trip has been provisionally booked to visit Gortatole Outdoor Centre in Co. Fermanagh from Tuesday 23rd -Friday 26th April 2024. Further details will be issued in due course. We are hoping that P7 will visit Edinburgh again this year. A letter has been sent this week to P7 parents detailing the options for the trip this year.

Breakfast Club:

The Breakfast Club has recommenced and operates from 8.00 a.m. – 8.45 a.m. each morning. This Club is very successful, averaging over 40 pupils every morning. Children can come and purchase a “Breakfast Special” – choice of cereal, toast and tea/juice for £1.50 per day. As well as a hearty breakfast the children are also provided with a wide selection of educational activities.

Diary Dates (provisional):

Hallowe'en Fancy Dress Disco – Thursday 26th October 2023

Parent/Teacher Meetings – w/b 13th November 2023

P1 Open Evening for new families – Wednesday 29th November 2023

Festive Evening (Santa's Visit) – Thursday 7th December 2023

P1 & P2 Nativity (10.00 a.m. start) – Tuesday 12th & Wednesday 13th December 2023

Carol service – Wednesday 20th December 2023

Holiday List Confirmation:

The following Holiday List has been confirmed with immediate effect for this term:

- School will be closed on **Friday 29th September** for staff training
- School will be closed from **Monday 30th October to Friday 3rd November 2023** (inclusive) for ½ Term
- School closes for Christmas on **Thursday 21st December at 12 noon** and re-opens on **Thursday 4th January 2024**.

After School Clubs:

The week beginning 11th September will see the resumption of our After School Activities. They will be as follows:

Monday:	Rugbytots – P1&2 – 2.00 – 3.00 - P4 – 3.00 – 4.00
	Craft Club (Starting 18 th September) – P2 – 2.00 – 3.00 (places limited to 15) - P5 – 3.00 – 4.00 (places limited to 15)
Tuesday:	Dance (starting 19 th September) – P1 - P3 – 2.00 – 3.00 - P4 – P7 – 3.00 – 4.00
	French - P1 – P3 – 2.00 – 3.00 - P4 – P7 – 3.00 – 4.00
Wednesday:	Brazilian Soccer – P2&3 – 2.00 – 3.00 (places limited to 15) - P4 – 3.00 – 4.00 (places limited to 15)
	Hockey – P5 - P7 – 3.00 – 4.00
Thursday:	Maiden City Football – P5 – P7 – 3.00 – 4.00

We are always looking to diversify the range of activities we can offer after school. If you have an activity you would like to see added and know of someone who can facilitate this, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

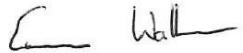
Car Park: I would like to thank you all for your cooperation on the use of the car park. As we begin our new school year, please remember to display good road manners and continue to be courteous to one another when using both the main school Car Park and the Car Park between the MUGA & Play Park. I have also instructed the teaching staff that **no child is to cross the Car Park unaccompanied** and that parents **must collect** their child from the class line at the front of the school. Please also be mindful of children crossing the gates at the entrance to the school/MUGA car park where there is no School Crossing Patrol. This is a school and children can act unpredictably at times, therefore I would ask that you exercise due caution when approaching the school and when on school grounds. Many warnings are issued throughout the year with regard to the car park and unfortunately these continue to be ignored by a very small minority of people. We will always try our best to ensure that the children are safe when they are on the grounds of the school and need your support to ensure this continues.

House System: Following on from the tremendous success of previous House Competitions, we have again split all the pupils in school into four houses which have an associated House colour: Chestnut (Red); Oak (Blue); Sycamore (Yellow) & Spruce (Green). Pupils remain in the same House they were in last year. Siblings will always be in the same House and any new pupils have been divided as equally as possible to ensure both an age and gender balance in each House. After a very closely fought year, it

was Chestnut that came out on top in June. This year the following House Masters and captains will be trying to ensure they tie their colours onto the house tree:

Chestnut – Mrs Semple; Captains – Scott Hanna & Lucy Doran
Oak – Mr Scott ; Captains – Cameron Lynch & Oliva Wray
Spruce – Mrs Bryson; Captains – Marcus Duncan & Zara Pinder
Sycamore – Mrs Hegarty; Captains – Ethan Robinson & Phoebie Cooke

Congratulations to those pupils elected as House Captains and also to all of those P7 pupils who stood for election and gave such rousing leadership speeches to their respective Houses.



E Walker - Principal