**Hallowe’en Disco:**

Many thanks to you for turning the children out so well to our Hallowe’en events held during the last few days of October. The children all looked amazing and the time and effort it took to have them looking spooky and scary was remarkable. A fantastic amount of £340.33 was raised. This will be used to help purchase new laptops and help to finance online learning tools such as Lexia and MyMaths. Without the support of the PTA, the school would not be able to purchase these valuable educational resources so a big thank you to you the parents for your support.

Also a little reminder that if you are doing any online shopping, please remember our Easy fundraising app or even better still, enable the automatic donation feature when purchasing items on the internet. The PTA will benefit at no extra expense to you.

**Remembrance Assembly/Poppy Appeal:**

The school would like to thank the Waterside British Legion for launching this year’s Poppy Appeal from the school and for attending our Remembrance Assembly on Friday, with a very special guest, Walter, from the Royal Hospital in Chelsea. All of the visitors were very impressed with the children’s singing in assembly and the contributions made by Alana Allen, Eli Cooke and Lucy Doran who read poems and led us in prayer.

Once we know the total raised from your donations to the Poppy Appeal, I will pass it on to you.

**Kids’ Forum:** Each school year, the pupils from P4 to P7 elect a boy and a girl from their class to act as representatives on the “Kids’ Forum.” This is a democratically elected group of pupils who represent their peers and enable pupils to become partners in their own education, making a positive contribution to the school environment and ethos. The following pupils were elected for the 2023/2024 school year:

**P4B:  Daniel Ojemolon & Ivy Cooke;**

**P4McK: Jayden Coll & Phoebe Gillen ;**

**P5B: Jeffrey Cochrane & Emilie King;**

**P5/6T: Ella Thompson & Barry Brolly**

**P6W: Alana Allen & George Walker;**

**P7S: Joshua Labourn & Emily McMonagle;**

**P7H: Tomiwa Akinrinsola & Phoebie Cooke.**

Well done to these pupils for delivering high quality speeches and convincing their class that they were the best pupils for the job.

**Open Evening:**

The school is holding its **P1 Open Evening** on Wednesday 29th November 2023 from 5.30 to 7.30 p.m.

Parents **and** their prospective P1 children are warmly invited to visit the school on the above date to come and experience our friendly welcoming atmosphere and to meet some of the staff who make Drumahoe Primary School such a special place.

If you know of any of your friends/neighbours who might consider enrolling their child/children in the future at the school, then please inform them of the Open Evening as well. This is a great opportunity to see at first-hand how our Foundation Stage (P1 & P2) operates.

We also currently have limited places available in a small number of classes in the school from P2 – P7. Again, if you know of anyone that this may be of interest to, please ask them to come along on the evening or get in touch with the school directly.

**Festive Event – Wednesday 6th December (please note the change of date):**

Please see information sent along with this newsletter for our very popular Festive morning / evening that is taking place on Wednesday 6th December. We are requesting items for the ‘100 Stall’,” Christmas Stall” and “Cake Stall” and please remember that we need as many items as possible to make the event the success that it has always been! The P.T.A. warmly welcomes items for the above stalls and they are also very keen to receive items for the Prize Draw. These can be left into the Office

at any time. Next week is the week to bring in donations for the 100 stall. Contributions for this may consist of any new items costing £1.00 or any unwanted gifts.

Santa will start to see the P1-P4 children in the morning of **Wednesday 6th December** from 9.15 a.m. (Breakfast with Santa in his Winter Wonderland) and the evening event will take place in the school from 6.00 p.m. – 8.00 p.m. with Santa in his Grotto in the evening from 6.00 p.m. Further details surrounding visiting Santa and avoiding the need to queue are issued in a separate letter, along with this parent memo. Don’t forget that there will be tea/coffee and biscuits as well as a 100 Stall, Christmas Stall, Bran Tub, Cake Stall and a Tuckshop. Admission is £2.00 for adults which includes a complimentary cup of tea/coffee and biscuit. Admission for pupils of Drumahoe P.S. is free! Car parking will be available in both the Main Car Park, the Play Park as well as the Drumahoe Road and surrounding area. Please refrain from parking in the “Staff” Car Park in our own school and please also respect our neighbours by not parking in front of gates etc.

**P.T.A. Draws:** (Cuddly Toy – 50p per guess or 3 for £1 and Sweets -20p per guess or 6 for £1)**:** Guess the number of sweets in the jar and guess the name of the cuddly toy will shortly be running in school. The winners will be announced at Assembly during the last week.

**KS1 & KS2 Carol Service:** The Annual Carol Service will take place this year in Glendermott Presbyterian Church at 1pm on Wednesday 20th December. This will be in the same format as last year with pupils in P3 to P7 participating in the service. More details concerning the arrangements for this day will follow closer to the time.

**P1 & P2 Nativity:** The P1 & P2 classes will perform their ‘Christmas Nativity’ play for their families & friends here in school in the Assembly Hall on **Tuesday 12th & Wednesday 13th December 2023** at 10.00 a.m. There will be tea/coffee & biscuit after the event. Any money raised through ticket sales will go towards purchasing resources for the Foundation Stage. As space in the Hall is limited, we will be allocating tickets to secure your seat at the annual ‘Christmas Nativity’. Further details on ticket allocation has already been issued.

**Christmas Dinner:** This will be served in school on **Thursday 14th December 2023** and anyone wishing to avail of this lunch should ensure the booking is made through our online payment system before Monday 11th December to allow for catering staff to know the number of children who would like a Christmas dinner. (cost £2.60).

**Ancillary Staff**: As you may also already be aware, each year we like to show our appreciation to our office, classroom assistants, ancillary, school meals and caretaking staff by presenting them with small gifts for Christmas. If you would like to contribute towards these gifts, we would ask that your donation be sent into school **before Friday 15th December 2023.** Your generosity is as always much appreciated.

**Christmas Jumper Day: Thursday 21st December 2023** has been designated as a Christmas Jumper Day to raise funds for Save the Children. I will be asking that all the pupils bring a minimum donation of £1.00 to their Class Teacher for the privilege of being able to wear their own Christmas jumper on Thursday.

**Closing / Opening**: **School will close for the pupils at 12 noon on Thursday 21st December 2023 (no dinners) for the Christmas holidays.** School re-opens for the Spring Term at 8.45 a.m. on **Thursday 4th January 2024.** The “Breakfast Club” & ‘Kadet Klub’ will be in operation on this day.

**Important Diary Dates:**

Drumahoe Primary School Open Evening – Wednesday 29th November 2023 from 5.30 – 7.30pm.
Drumahoe Preschool Open Day – Wednesday 29th November 2023 from 2pm
Festive Event (Santa’s Visit) – Wednesday 6th December 2023
P1 & P2 Nativity (10.00 a.m. start) – Tuesday 12th & Wednesday 13th December 2023
Carol Service – Wednesday 20th December 2023 at 1pm
School closes for Christmas on Thursday 21st December at 12pm and re-opens on Thursday 4th January 2024.