



Hello everyone. I can't believe we are in December already! I just wanted to pass some information on to you about some activities that are taking place in school over the festive period along with some other important information.

Christmas Dinner:

This will be served in school on **Wednesday 8th December** and anyone wishing to avail of the Christmas dinner should book online (www.ipayimpact.co.uk) **on or before Friday 3rd December 2021** (cost £2.60) to allow the kitchen to order appropriately.

Christmas Fun Day:

Friday 17th December 2021 has also been designated as our Christmas fun day. The children can come to school in their Christmas jumpers and we are planning to have lots of fun activities for the children to do in school that day, we might even have a surprise visit from a special visitor! There is no charge for this as it is our way of providing a treat for the children.

Christmas Card Fundraiser:

Many thanks to everyone who ordered Christmas cards from the school that were designed by the children themselves. The cards will be delivered shortly and a special word of thanks to "Oak Print and Graphics" and to Mrs J McKeegan for organising this initiative.

Poppy Appeal

Thank you to everyone who contributed to this year's Poppy Appeal. We were able to raise a fabulous £651.20 for the Royal British Legion this year. A super effort!

Christmas Cards:

I am aware that a number of parents have asked teachers lately about the guidance on Christmas cards being sent from home into school. As we have relaxed the rules around materials being brought into school we feel it would be appropriate for children to bring in cards for others if they would like to do so. Please put the name and class of the child who is to receive the card on the front of the envelope.

Christmas Fundraising:

This year the children will have the chance to win a jar full of sweets and a Christmas teddy. All they have to do is guess how many sweets are in the jar and the name of the teddy. Guesses for the teddy are 50p per guess and 20p per guess for the jar of sweets or 6 guesses for £1.00 This fundraising will begin on Monday 6th December and run for two weeks, with the winner being announced on the last week of term in time for the Christmas holidays. Children will have the opportunity to make their guesses every day until the winner is announced.

Closing / Opening:

School will close for the Christmas holidays at 12.00 noon on Tuesday 21st December 2021 (no dinners). There will be staggered finishing times for the pupils on that day. P1 and P2 will finish at 12pm, P3 & P4 at 12.10pm and P5 – P7 at 12.20pm. School re-opens for the Spring Term on **Wednesday 5th January 2022**. The Kadet Klub will be in operation on that day.

Kadet Klub:

Kadet Klub will close for Christmas on Tuesday 21st December 2021 at 5.30pm (packed lunch required). Kadet Klub re-opens on **Wednesday 5th January 2022**. Booking forms will be issued w/c 13.12.21 for January and must be returned before the Christmas holidays ie.21.12.21

Whole School (P1-P7) Parental Interviews:

These interviews will take place week commencing Monday 7th February 2022. Further details re. times etc. will be issued week commencing 31st January 2022. We are planning that parent-teacher interviews will be conducted via telephone again this year. If the situation with COVID improves in the new year, we will review these arrangements closer to the time.

P1 & School Enrolment

School Enrolment Information on the procedures for school admissions in September 2022 should be available on the EA website eani.org.uk/parents/admissions mid-December 2021 for Pre-school/Primary 1 places and for Post-Primary places (Year 8 entry). Schools are currently updating criteria to send back to EA for Year 1 admissions. The dates given for the application process for Primary and Nursery schools currently is that it will go live on the EA website on the **Monday 10th January 2022** at 12 noon, with a closing date for applications on **28th January 2022**.

P1 Open Evening

The school is also holding an open evening from **4pm to 6pm on Tuesday 7th December**. Due to the continuing pandemic and social distancing measures we are holding a scaled back open evening that will still allow parents to come and see round the P1 and P2 area as well as view our wonderful outdoor facilities in as safe a way as possible. If you have not booked your slot already or know of anyone who would like to make an appointment, then please contact the school **on 028 7130 2284 / 0773 1709 881**. Other appointments can be made if required by ringing the school directly.

Drumahoe PS App/Seesaw

With the COVID pandemic, we have introduced new apps to aid communication between home and school. The 'Drumahoe P.S. App' is the main means by which we make it easy to keep up to date with what is happening at our school – wherever you are. Access to the calendar, events, school news and image gallery is just a click away. The app is designed to make dealing with 'school stuff' simple and for you to feel fully involved with your child's education. More details are available from the Front Office if you haven't already downloaded the App.

We also use the Seesaw App to allow teachers to send messages/information to parents of pupils in their class directly and vice versa. I would strongly ask that parents do not message teachers on the Seesaw app outside of school hours. Teachers work extremely hard and are entitled to their 'down time' when not at work. If you need to inform the school of an absence, please ring the school office in the morning and do not message the teacher directly on Seesaw. If you need to make an appointment to speak to your child's teacher, this must also be arranged through the school office. If you have a query regarding homework, class events etc.



you can send a message up to 4pm or after 8.15am in the morning. If you work outside of these hours and you have concerns reading, homework etc., put a note into the child's homework book and the teacher will respond to this the next day. I have instructed staff not to respond to any messages outside of school hours (8.15am – 4pm) and anyone who consistently abuses this will be removed from the Seesaw app. I would also ask that in all your communications with the school, you remain polite and courteous at all times.

COVID

I'm sure you are aware that cases of COVID-19 have risen in the community over the past number of weeks, along with another worrying development concerning the Omicron variant. You may also have read on the news about the staff shortages currently facing the education sector. Both of these situations are impacting on our school at the moment as well.

The school no longer has responsibility for the track and trace of COVID -19. Therefore, I would ask that if your child is displaying any signs of sickness you would consider performing a lateral flow test on them before sending them to school. Also, if a member of the household has tested positive for COVID-19, please consider booking a PCR test for the rest of the family before attending school. These are only recommendations but I would ask that for the benefit of everyone's health and safety, you would consider taking action to help prevent the spread of COVID-19 in our school.

If your child is displaying symptoms of COVID-19 PLEASE DO NOT send them to school but immediately book a PCR test. I would hope that having to ask some classes to revert back to remote learning is a complete last resort and a measure we do not want to take. Working together to minimise COVID outbreaks in the school is the only way we can ensure that this does not happen.

The Principal and Staff would like to thank everyone connected with the school for their unstinting support. Without such support our job would be so much more difficult - it is most appreciated. We would also like to wish all of you a most relaxing Christmas and a Peaceful and Prosperous New Year.

E Walker - Principal.

