



## Drumahoe Primary School – Parent Memo: January 2022



Dear Parent,

Please take some time to read some important information about what is happening in school this term and beyond.

### **Parent-Teacher Meetings:**

Parent teacher meetings will take place on the week beginning 7<sup>th</sup> February 2022. These meetings will take place again via telephone. This is in line with the guidance given to schools by the Department of Education that any meeting that takes place in school should be carried out via telephone, video conferencing etc. To allow these meetings to take place, the children will leave school at 2pm on Monday 7<sup>th</sup>, Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> and Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> February. After school dance will **not** take place on Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> February but Hockey will run from 2-3p.m. on Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> February. Kadet Klub will be open on these dates and if you require a place for your child, please ensure you book in advance by completing the booking form that Mrs Glenn emails directly to all parents and returning it to school.

### **Half-Term Holidays:**

School will be closed on **Monday 14<sup>th</sup> February until Friday 18<sup>th</sup> February 2022** for the half-term holiday.

### **P6 and P7 School Trip:**

The pupils of Primary 6 and Primary 7 will visit Gortatole Outdoor Centre in April and May respectively this year. More detailed information has been sent out to parents of pupils in these classes. We are thankful this year that both year groups will have the chance to participate in a school trip as this will form a big part of their memories of their time at primary school. I'd like to thank Mr Scott for organising the trips this year.

### **Swimming:**

Swimming lessons for Years 6 came to an end last week. P7 children will begin their swimming lessons on 26<sup>th</sup> January for 15 weeks.

### **COVID:**

The school is continuing to experience some difficulties with staff shortages due to the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic. I would like to say a massive thank-you to all of the staff who have gone above and beyond in order to keep the doors of the school open to all children. Obviously, the situation with COVID changes daily making it very difficult to put long-term plans in place. I am hopeful that the school will return to 'normal' by the beginning of next week. I would also like to thank you, the parents, for your patience and understanding on this matter. Please continue to exercise caution and by working together and taking all necessary precautions, we will reduce the impact COVID has had on our school.

### **Lunch:**

I wanted to inform you that I have made some changes to lunchtime arrangements in school. This is to reduce the amount of classes mixing in the dinner hall and has meant that the lunch times for each year group is slightly shorter. The following arrangements now apply:

P1 and P2 – dinner hall from 11.50 – 12.10 and play outside from 12.10 – 12.30

P3, P4 and P5 - dinner hall from 12.15 – 12.35 and play outside from 12.35 – 12.55

P6 and P7 - dinner hall from 12.40 – 1.00 and play outside from 1.00 – 1.20

### **Child Protection Policy & Information:**

We, as educators in Drumahoe Primary School have a responsibility for the Pastoral Care, general welfare and safety of the children in our care and we will carry out this duty by providing a caring, supportive and safe environment. Each child is valued for his or her unique talents and abilities and all our young people can learn and develop to their full potential.

All stakeholders in the school are alert to the signs of possible abuse and know the procedures to be followed. We recently reviewed our Policy and it sets out guidance on the action, which is required where abuse or neglect of a child is suspected and outlines referral procedures within our school. One important change to this policy is the name of the **Deputy Designated** teacher for Child Protection. This is now the duty of myself, **Mrs Walker, alongside Mrs Johnston. Mrs Hegarty** continues in the role **as Designated teacher** for Child Protection. If you have any concerns regarding welfare issues, please ring the office (02871302284) to speak to Mrs Hegarty or myself. The revised Policy, once passed by the Board of Governors, will be available to view on the School Website [www.drumahoeps.org](http://www.drumahoeps.org) and also on the School

“Developing the potential of everyone to the full, within a caring and stimulating environment.”

App under the 'Information' Tab. A paper copy will also be made available from the School Office on request. A leaflet providing a short overview of Child protection arrangements in school will be sent out to each family next week.

**PTA:**

We are hopeful that in the summer term we will be able to hold some of our 'normal' summer events, including our successful Fun Night BBQ. With this in mind, I would like to have a meeting of the PTA in February to help plan for this event. If you were a member of the PTA or if you would like to join the team, please let me know by emailing me ([ewalker231@c2kni.net](mailto:ewalker231@c2kni.net)) or ringing the office and registering your interest with Mrs Glenn (02871302284). I will then inform you of the date and time of the next meeting.

**Christmas Card Fundraiser:**

Many thanks to everyone who ordered Christmas Cards from the school that were designed by the children. This raised £463.58 for school funds. Many thanks to Mrs McKeegan for organising this initiative.

**After School Clubs:**

Just a reminder that clubs for this term are as follows:

Tuesday – Dance – P1 and P2 – 2pm – 3pm and P4-P7 – 3pm – 4pm

Football – Mr Clarke/Mr Scott - P6 and P7 - 3pm - 4pm – which will re-commence on 24.01.22

Wednesday – Hockey – P6 and P7 – 3pm – 4pm

Thursday – Maiden City Soccer – P5, P6 and P7 – 3pm – 4pm

**Prefects:**

The prefects for this half-term are as follows:

Tom McConnell

Casey Boreland

Ella Deeney

Demi Lyttle

Alex McClelland

Adam Rochester

Carter Watson-Neely

Thanks to the last term's prefects for all the hard work they carried out around the school. I know the new prefects will be just as hard-working.

**Lego:**

If anyone has any Lego at home that their children no longer use or play with, the LSC pupils would love to take it off your hands. If you would like to donate any, please hand into Mrs Glenn's office.

Many thanks for taking the time to read our January memo.

**E Walker**

Principal