



It has been wonderful seeing all of the pupils returning to school under more 'normal' conditions and I trust your children have settled well and will have a wonderful 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 week, 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.

Staff Appointments:

On behalf of the Board of Governors, I would like to point out the following staff changes: Mrs Clara Garden will be teaching P4B on Wednesdays and P5J on Thursdays and Fridays, Miss Alison Moore will teach P6W on Wednesdays and Miss Amy Caldwell will teach P3C on Fridays to cover the flexible working arrangements and SEN cover for Mrs Johnston, our SENCo. Miss Harris will also be providing 'Learning Support' throughout the school on weekday mornings.

Pantomime:

This year we have decided not to attend the Millennium Forum to see the pantomime at Christmas time. This is largely to do with the rising costs associated with the trip. A touring Theatre Company will come to school in January to perform 'Sleeping Beauty' for the children. 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 (P5-P7) 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 ie. sweatshirts, polo shirts, ties etc. are held as stock items in school and can be purchased from the Front Office.

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 so as to avoid any potential health risk.

Prefects:

The Prefects for this half-term are: **Halle Kee, Katie Lyttle, Micah Johnston, Codie Kennedy, Oliver Cadden, Charlie Taylor, Amelia Jackson, Ariana McClay**. 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:

Each teacher has prepared and distributed their information leaflet detailing how their particular 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. If you have any queries surrounding the contents of the leaflet, then please address these directly with either the class teacher or myself.

Name Labels:

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!

P6 Trip:

This school year the P6 Residential Trip has been provisionally booked to visit Gortatole Outdoor Centre in Co. Fermanagh from Tuesday 18th -Friday 21st April 2023. Further details will be issued in due course. We are

continuing to consider arrangements for the P7 trip this year. Again, the rising cost of living is making many options very expensive. Once we have made a decision, we will let you know.

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 30 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 27th October 2022
P1 Open Evening for new families – Thursday 1st December 2022
Festive Evening (Santa's Visit) – Thursday 8th December 2022
P1 & P2 Nativity (10.00 a.m. start) – Wednesday 14th & Thursday 15th December 2022

Details of other events will be added throughout the term. We will be holding a meeting of the PTA on **Tuesday 20th September at 3pm** to make arrangements for some of the above events and to plan activities for the rest of the school year. If you are free to attend or would like to offer to help at any of the PTA/school events throughout the year, then please do get in touch.

Death of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II

As a school community we were greatly saddened to learn of the death of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. Our thoughts and deepest condolences are with The Royal Family at this very sad time. Her Majesty has had an enormous, significant and profound impact in inspiring and motivating generations of children and young people to be the best they can be. Her dedication to public service throughout the years is a remarkable example to us all. Not only have we lost a great public servant but also a mother, grandmother and great grandmother. As a mark of respect, the school **will be closed** on Monday 19th September 2022.

Holiday List Confirmation:

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

- School will be closed on Friday 30th September for staff training
- School will be closed from Monday 31st to Friday 4th November 2022 (inclusive) for ½ Term
- School closes for Christmas on Wednesday 21st December and re-opens on Thursday 7th January 2023.

After School Clubs:

Next week will see the resumption of our After School Activities. They will be as follows:

Tuesday: Dance – P1, P2 and P3 – 2.00 – 3.00
Dance - P4 – P7 – 3.00 – 4.00
French - P1, P2 and P3 – 2.00 – 3.00 (places limited to 30)
French - P4 – P7 – 3.00 – 4.00 (places limited to 30)

Wednesday: Soccer Tots – P2 – 2.00 – 3.00 (places limited to 15)
Brazilian Soccer – P4 – 3.00 – 4.00 (places limited to 15)
Hockey – P6 and 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 refrain from entering/obstructing the Staff Car Park.

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.

The House Masters and Captains for 2022-2023 are as follows:

Chestnut – Mrs Semple; Captains – Isabella Dunn & Mason Cooke;
Oak – Mr Scott ; Captains – Lotus Boyd & William Devonshire;
Spruce – Mrs Bryson; Captains – Ellie Brennan & Zack Kennedy
Sycamore – Mrs Hegarty; Captains – Jessie Young & Lewis d'Hulst.

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.

PATHS Programme

This year the school is embarking on a new programme called PATHS. This stands for 'Promoting Alternative Thinking Strategies and is designed to facilitate the development of self-control, emotional awareness and interpersonal problem-solving skills. The programme is run through Barnardo's and we hope that by allowing the children to understand and manage their emotions more effectively, they will achieve greater success with their learning. More information on the programme can be found on the PATHS website.

Could I ask that you read through the privacy notice attached with this Newsletter and if you have any queries, please contact the school directly. Also, if your child has a PATHS homework to complete, it would be great if you could spend some time with your child discussing this.



E Walker - Principal