



'Being the best that we can be'

Friday Note

Friday 17 November 2017

No.9

Looking back...

What a fantastic evening....that was Tuesday night and our Foundation Stage Literacy workshop. The workshop was informative and totally practical and parents who attended received lots of goodies to help support their child in Literacy at home. Parental feedback was excellent with comments such as...

"An absolutely fantastic session. The practical tasks were so well planned and interesting"

"Really informative evening with lots of great tips to encourage reading at home"

"Fantastic evening! So helpful and worthwhile, full of ideas and tips. I am so glad I came as now I can use these tools at home!"

Thank you so much to those parents who came along and thank you to all of our foundation stage teachers and Mrs Hanna, our Literacy coordinator for preparing such an informative and enjoyable workshop!

Vote for Kevin!

We are delighted that Kevin Gough (Mrs Gough's other half) has been shortlisted in the Translink Ulster GAA Coach of the year....please vote for him following this link:

<http://ulster.gaa.ie/coachoftheyearaward/>

Pupil Volunteers

Thank you so much to our pupil volunteers, Dearbhla, Felix, Kiera, Eryn, Lucy, Zara, Anna, Maria and Andrew who gave out our Open Night flyers at Masses in St. Patrick's last weekend! I really appreciate their commitment to school life. Well done everyone.

If you could help us out by delivering some flyers around your area, please let Julie know how many leaflets you can deliver and which areas you can cover!

Anti-Bullying Week

We marked Anti-Bullying Week this week with lots of informative workshops and activities across the school. We enjoyed an 'E-Safety' talk from Andy and Rab our community police officers. Pupils from p4 – P7 learned about the dangers of social media and how to stay safe online. Pupils from P7 are currently making their own e safety videos highlighting the dangers of cyber bullying. Pupils will have brought home a copy of our "Care and Respect" booklet. We would really appreciate it if you could take time this weekend to discuss the messages in it with your child.

Attendance

School attendance is a very important part of school life. Research shows there is a clear link between regular school attendance and achievement in school. As Acting Principal, I regularly review the attendance rates of pupils, classes and the whole school and report these figures to governors. At the moment our whole school attendance is 95.2% which is falling lower than our whole school attendance last year. I would appeal to parents to please try to ensure your child attends school. If your child is ill it is important that you ring the school on the first day of illness to let the teacher know and follow this up with a written letter. Attendance is recorded digitally and it is important that teachers use the correct code when recording.

Looking ahead...

Open Night

Our Open Night for Primary 1 September 2018 will take place on **Tuesday 5 December at 7pm**. Please come along if you have a son/daughter for Primary 1 next year. Please spread the message to friends and neighbours as well. Members of our school choir and folk group will perform.

P1 and P2 Christmas Concert

Our Primary 1 and 2 Christmas Concerts take place on **Thursday 14 and Friday 15 December**. Don't forget, tickets are now on sale and can only be purchased at the office.

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Year Group Newssheets

Our year group newssheets for this half term have been sent out this week. Please read these carefully as they give you lots of information about topics and areas of learning this half term and will help you support their learning at home.

Christmas Carol Concert

We are looking forward to our annual Christmas Carol Concert in Lisburn's Island Hall on **Tuesday 19 December**. This is always a fabulous event and really does fill us with 'Christmas Cheer'. The following groups will be performing on the night:

- Both Primary 5 classes will present their own special version of the Nativity story
- Primary 5 – Primary 7 School Choir
- Junior Primary 4 Choir
- St. Joseph's Folk Group: Guitar, Flutes, Violins and P5 – P7 whistles
- Clarinet Group

Tickets will ONLY be available from the Island Centre Booking Office on the Island Centre website. Tickets cost £7 and will be available from **Monday 4 December**. Tickets are sold on a **FIRST COME FIRST SERVED** basis with **NO LIMIT** to tickets purchased so it is wise to make sure you purchase your tickets very early. Tickets normally sell out within 2/3 days of becoming available.

Christmas Card Orders

Sample Christmas Card designs have already been sent home with your child along with order forms. Please return all Christmas card orders in an envelope marked PTA. The closing date for all orders is next Friday 24 November.

Christmas Dinner

Our annual Christmas dinner for pupils will take place on **Wednesday 6 December**. This is always a really enjoyable occasion for all pupils. A note has gone home today so if you would like your child to have Christmas dinner, please return the note and £2.60 to your child's teacher **BEFORE Thursday 30 November**. Thank you.

The Big Soup

Mrs Hunter and the school Eco-Council will be using herbs from the school garden to make soup. Children from P7 will be their 'Chief Tasters' next Tuesday 21 November. They will have the chance to buy a bowl of soup (50p) or soup and bread (£1) for break. All proceeds will go to our eco-school fund.

What's happening next week?

Monday 20 November 2017	Tuesday 21 November 2017	Wednesday 22 November 2017	Thursday 23 November 2017	Friday 24 November 2017
3pm ICT Coding workshop for teaching staff Mrs Connolly: SENCO Development Day: SUB: Mr Reid P5 Christmas Carol Concert Preparations: SUB: Ms Leonard Board of Governor meeting at 6pm	Mrs Fleming at C2K Securix Information session 10am – 11.30am Miss Clarke: Numeracy Development Day: SUB: Mr Reid P5 Christmas Carol Concert Preparations: SUB: Ms Leonard	Last Transfer Club at 8am Pupil Conference Day 1 Miss Clarke: SUB: Miss McKeown and Mrs Hanna: SUB: Mr Reid P5 Christmas Carol Concert Preparations: SUB: Ms Leonard P6: Waterstones Visit P3 at tennis	P4 Mrs Connolly assembly	Christmas Cards: Deadline for orders P5 Swimming P7 at badminton

Have a lovely weekend!

Pauline Fleming (Acting Principal)

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