



# DROMORE ROAD PRIMARY SCHOOL

## September/ October 2018 News



Welcome to our first Term 1 Newsletter. We hope you find it useful, and any suggestions or comments would be gratefully received. Please also remember to visit our school website regularly where content is amended and updated regularly. We hope that this gives you a snapshot of what your child is currently doing in school. ([www.dromoreroadps.com](http://www.dromoreroadps.com))



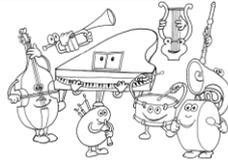
### Y6/7 BBC 10 piece



We were delighted to have two members of the Ulster Orchestra work with the pupils on Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> September. They had devised a workshop based from the BBC 10 pieces and it was a great experience for all involved.

### School Nurse

Flu Vaccinations are scheduled for Monday 15<sup>th</sup> October



### Parent Teacher Association

The school's PTA is invaluable in raising funds for the pupils and is a great way for new parents to get involved in school life. Our current PTA members are a very enthusiastic group and would extend a warm welcome to any new members (in whatever capacity suits you). We also welcome volunteers to help out at various events throughout the school year. If anyone is interested, please contact the school office. This year our Autumn Fayre has been organised for **Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> October 7-9pm** and the PTA would appreciate your help, if possible.

### Office Hour Changes

Please note the office will be unmanned between 11-1pm. Mrs McParland will be back in the office in the afternoon if you need to leave a message.



### Paws b Mindfulness Programme

As part of our focus on pupils' health and well-being, our P5-7 pupils are being given the opportunity to avail of the Paws b Mindfulness Programme. Paws b is a 6 weeks mindfulness programme for primary schools delivered by Carolyn Blair from AWARE. It aims to give students mindfulness as a life-skill and use it to:

- feel happier, calmer and more fulfilled
- help them concentrate
- support performance such as music and sport
- get on better with others
- help cope with stress and anxiety

We hope that your child will benefit from this programme and Carolyn is to confirm in the next few days a date for an information session for parents.

### Extended Schools link with St Mark's

This year as part of our cluster, Y4-7 pupils have been invited to attend three workshops at St Mark's to promote pupils' health and well-being. The pupils have already thoroughly enjoyed a First Aid workshop on Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> September where they had the opportunity to learn basic life-saving skills. The next workshop is on Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> October and is a Halloween Cookery workshop. This is being organised by the Home Economics Department at St Mark's and the classes involved have permission slips home already. Please note we have only been allocated 20 places. A Christmas Art workshop is also planned for Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> December.

### Uniform

Everyone looks fantastic in their new uniform. In maintaining high standards throughout the school, pupils are expected to wear the appropriate uniform on the correct days. Please ensure your child wears full shirt and tie uniform with black shoes on Monday, Tuesday and Thursday. Tracksuits can be worn on Wednesday and Friday only, which are PE days for the whole school.

### Shared Education

Y4/5 and Y6/7 are timetabled for shared lessons in Term 1. Our focus this year will be on developing Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths (STEM). Y6/7 will be travelling with St Bronagh's for a shared education trip to the Linen Mill in Lisburn on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> October as part of their topic on textiles.

### School Photos

Tempest Photographers are in school on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> October to take individual photos. The photographer hopes to get most photos taken on Monday but as Y6/7 are on a trip, the photographer has agreed to return at a later date if need be. We will confirm this as soon as possible.

## **Breaks and Lunch Box Reminder**

As you may be aware from the news there is currently an epipen shortage in the UK. Can I ask parents to be very vigilant in what they are sending into school for snack and to strictly adhere to a **no nut policy**. Can I also remind parents that the children are encouraged to drink water in class during the day. **This bottle should contain only water and not diluting.** Thank you.

# Happy Halloween Break

## **SCHOOL WILL BE CLOSED**

**Mon 29th Oct to**

**Fri 2<sup>nd</sup> Nov inclusive**

**and reopens on Monday 5th November**



## **HEALTHY KIDZ**

Our Physical Activity Leader, Andy has now started delivering PE sessions with each class and the pupils are really enjoying the high energy sessions. On Friday 28<sup>th</sup> September all the pupils and teachers completed a timed Golden Mile. Over the next year, we will complete a timed run once a week to try to increase pupils' fitness levels. The third stage of the programme is the Healthy Kidz app and this will be introduced to our Key Stage 2 classes in the coming weeks.

## **RISE Attention & Listening Programme**

*We are delighted to have been able to avail of the expertise of the RISE NI Service, who will be in school during October to work with our pupils in Y1/2. Their programme aims to improve pupils' attention and listening skills with the aid of visual strategies, multisensory activities and appropriate modelling. We hope that our younger pupils will enjoy these practical sessions in helping them settle into their new learning environment.*

## **EA iPad Workshops**

Later this month, an experienced music service tutor will be working with pupils in Y2/3 and Y4/5 to introduce them to using GarageBand on the iPads. Through these workshops we aim to provide opportunities for the pupils to develop their interactive skills and creative musical ability.

## **Punctuality**

A big thank you to all parents for ensuring your child is in school ready to start lessons at 9am. The staff have been pleased at pupils' punctuality so far and we'd appreciate your support in sustaining good attendance and punctuality, as the school year progresses.

## **Traffic**

Concerns have been raised about the speed of the traffic outside the school. These concerns have been raised with the PSNI and with local councillors. In the meantime, to ensure our pupils' safety, gates will be closed at 9am and will reopen for afternoon pick-ups.

## **Health and Safety**

We are currently having difficulty with cats entering the school grounds. Please reiterate with your child, safe behaviours around unknown animals. We would also ask you to be extra vigilant if walking to school as we are having an issue with dogs fouling on the footpaths directly outside the school.



## **Y4/5 Fire Safety Talk**

Yesterday, Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> October, Fire Fighter Sloan visited our class and told us how to stay fire safe. He also told us about goodies and baddies relating to starting a fire. He gave us 3 rhymes to help us remember what he told us:

1. Thumbs up on Monday
2. Ban the pan
3. Get out, get the fire brigade out and stay out.

**By Alicja Oliveira Szwiec, Y4**