



# DROMORE ROAD PRIMARY SCHOOL

## OCTOBER 2017 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))



### Y7 CASSE Programme



We have been delighted to have Stan, a retired policeman in to school to work with our P7 pupils to raise awareness of substance abuse and also young people and the law. This week's topic is on internet safety and cyber bullying.

### Snapchat



We have become aware that a number of our pupils are using Snapchat outside of school. As the effects of using this app is currently being seen in the classroom, we would encourage parents to take note of the fact that Snapchat is not to be used by primary aged children. We would also encourage you to remind your child that they have responsibilities to use technology in a safe and legal way. Talk to your child about what to do if they are experiencing incidents that make them uncomfortable or feel unsafe.

### Cancer Focus Workshops

We were pleased to have Cancer Focus visit school on Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> October, with a special guest...Genieve the goat! The children throughout the school were informed of the benefits of healthy eating and how to keep their bodies healthy. Primary 7 also became members of the Smoke Busters team as part of the visit.

### 2017/18 Learning Priorities



#### Literacy

1. We will be continuing to focus on raising reading standards through the use of Accelerated Reader. We have also purchased Lexia, an online programme, to support children who need more assistance.
2. Spelling is also a focus. Teachers will use the Linguistic Phonics approach when teaching spellings.

#### Numeracy

1. We will continue to focus on developing pupils' confidence when applying facts and procedures. All classes have started to use Mathletics as part of their maths lessons and we'd encourage your child to use it as regularly as possible at home. We will also have STEM in school next week as part of Maths Week.
2. This year we will also be trying to improve pupils' application of their maths skills to problem solving.

'Genieve'



### Extended Schools link with St Mark's

This year as part of our cluster, KS2 pupils have been invited to attend two workshops at St Mark's to promote pupil well-being. The pupils have already thoroughly enjoyed two workshops with the Art Department where they had the opportunity to make a clay angel.

The next workshop, on Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> October is being organised by the Home Economics Department and the pupils will be making and decorating shortbread. Those pupils, who have returned their permission slip, are reminded they should meet Mrs Fraser at the entrance of St Mark's at 10.40am



### Y3/4 Farm to Fork Trip @ Tesco

Y3/4 enjoyed their trip to Tesco on Monday 18<sup>th</sup> September to learn about where our food comes from. The pupils enjoyed the tour of the shop, stores and the bakery and particularly enjoyed tasting lots of different food including bread, cheese and fruit.

Yummy!!

### PARENT TEACHER INTERVIEWS

The school will close early on Monday 23<sup>rd</sup>, Tues 24<sup>th</sup>, Wed 25<sup>th</sup> & Thur 26<sup>th</sup> October to facilitate parent teacher meetings. Closing time is 1.30pm. Please check your child's bag for a 'Parent Interview Slip' so that an appointment can be made with your child's teacher.

# Happy Halloween Break

**SCHOOL WILL BE CLOSED**

**Mon 30<sup>th</sup> Oct to**

**Fri 3<sup>rd</sup> Nov inclusive**

**and reopens on**

**Monday 6<sup>th</sup> November**



## After School Coaching

This term, we have been delighted to have Jane, the coach from Warrenpoint Tennis Club working with our pupils and this has been very successful. Please note that there will be no tennis on Parent Interview week and that it will recommence on Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> November. After Christmas, Burns Soccer School will be back for a 10 week football programme for Y1 to Y7. We appreciate that these clubs can be considerably expensive to pay up front but if you would like to book a place and start paying in instalments please speak to Mrs McParland. The cost for the 10 week programme will be £30 – Only 20 places available for Y1-3 and Y4-7.



## Uniform

I am sure you are aware that we have had awful trouble with the production of our school uniform with our new logo. The firm have now realised the issue and will be sending our entire school order again with the correct logo colour and on the correct side.

Once your new order arrives we would ask that you return any sweaters/cardigans with the logo on the wrong side/or with the wrong colour of logo.

Many thanks for your understanding in this matter.

## PTA NEWS

Do you remember our Balloon Race last June? The deadline for return of balloon labels was the first day of term and we'd like to offer a huge congratulations to our winners.



1st prize of £150 went to Kathleen Montgomery whose balloon travelled all the way to Inverness. 2nd prize was a £50 Quay's voucher which was awarded to Gemma O'Hare. 3rd prize was a Number 7 gift voucher which was presented to one of our students, Maria and finally 4th Prize, Sunday lunch at the Balmoral was presented to Sheila Moore. A big thank you to everyone who supporting this successful event and to all the local companies which sponsored us.

This year we are holding our annual Autumn Fayre in the school gym on Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> October at 7pm. The PTA would be delighted if you could help in any way.

Our Autumn Fayre sheet is attached.

## Year 1 & 2 go shelter building in Kilbroney Park

Y1 and 2 really enjoyed their trip to Kilbroney Forest Park last week to learn about shelter building using natural materials. It was a very informative day and the children enjoyed learning about the forest habitat.

## Demonetisation of round £1 coin

Please note that the old, round £1 coins will no longer be legal tender after Sunday 15th October 2017. We will no longer be able to accept the round £1 coin after Friday 13th October 2017 and would ask you to check all money being sent into school.

## Shared Education

Shared lessons with St Bronagh's have recommenced for Y3/4 and Y5/6. Due to issues with the bus, lessons have had to be rearranged and dates for shared lessons will now be:

Wednesday 11th October

Wednesday 25th October

Wednesday 15th November

Wednesday 29th November

Tuesday 12th December

Pupils will have the opportunity to undertake shared mathematics lessons using Numicon and to work with staff from the AMMA centre to develop their ICT skills further.

## Policies

As a school, we are continually reviewing policies and practices in the school to improve standards. Throughout the year, we will regularly add any amended or new policies to the website for parental consultation. The following policies will be on the website for consultation from Monday 16<sup>th</sup> October: *Teaching and Learning, Curriculum and Pastoral Care*. Any comments or feedback should be put in writing by Monday 6<sup>th</sup> November. Our E-safety policy will also be available to view for consultation from 6<sup>th</sup> November to 20<sup>th</sup> November. The Board of Governors also agreed an Interim Complaints Procedure at our last meeting. This is available to view on the website or copies are available in the entrance hall.

## Silent Valley Trip

Year seven had a wonderful day at the Silent Valley on Friday 6<sup>th</sup> October.

They enjoyed the climb to the top of Ben Crom Dam and visited the education and visitor centres. They also enjoyed taking part in orienteering in the forest. Well done to all the children who attended for their exemplary behaviour.



## Balanceability

We have been delighted to have Mrs Cumming and Miss McCullough working with our P1 pupils to help get them cycling! The Balanceability programme they provide focuses on balance and control and by the end of our two sessions all the P1's had made great progress and had lots of fun!