

DROMORE ROAD FEBRUARY/ MARCH NEWSLETTER

Snow caused an unexpected disruption to school life in the last few days and we apologise for any inconvenience caused. Hopefully you made the most of the snow!! We have attached an updated calendar for your convenience. Just a reminder, if you have not downloaded the school app yet, please do so as soon as possible. A link is available on the school website www.dromoreroadps.com. This is the most economical way for us to keep you updated with school messages. We will also continue to update the school website and send a text message if the school must close due to adverse weather or exceptional circumstances.



Mathletics World Maths Challenge

We will be taking part in the Live Mathletics challenge on Tuesday 6th and Wednesday 7th March. Please encourage your child to log on at home to play the live games as we compete as a school. The competition measures speed in arithmetic and numeracy skills on the **Live Mathletics** platform and is open to all schools around the world. Special congratulations to Myah Harper in P1, our first gold certificate winner!



Football Tournaments

On Friday 2nd February 8 boys participated in the Newry High School Tournament at Newry Olympic Hockey Club. A total of 6 games were played and 6 goals were scored! Overall we won 2, drew 2 and were defeated in 2. All credit to the boys, Jamie, Josh, Karim, Nathan, Lucas, Keegan, Jayden and Brody who represented the school admirably.



On Wednesday 7th February, 6 boys also travelled to the Indoor Five A Side competition at Kilkeel Leisure Centre to compete against 12 local Mourne primary schools.

We were narrowly beaten in our first two matches but fought back to win the third. Well done boys.

WORLD BOOK DAY

DON'T FORGET

Our World Book celebration day has been rescheduled to Thursday 8th March. Remember to bring your story sack/ box and come dressed up as your favourite book character.

Swimming Lessons

Due to pool maintenance, there will be no swimming on 12th March for P4/5. An additional lesson will be added at the end of the block.



Windsor Park Trip

Well done to Mrs Newell's class and our top readers from Mrs Graham's and Miss Skillen's class who were rewarded with a day out to Windsor Park. They got to visit the IFA Education Centre and enjoyed an interesting tour of the stadium. They also enjoyed eating at McDonald's on the way home!



Library Visits

Thank you to our local library in Warrenpoint for hosting visits as part of our World Book Day celebrations. Many of the children were keen to become members of the library and have taken home an application form. If your child is not already a library member we'd encourage you to fill in the application form as reading is an essential skill in allowing them to access the world! They also have a great selection of accelerated reader books in the public library. The cancelled slots for Y5/6 and Y1/2 will be rescheduled.



PARENT TEACHER MEETINGS

Thank you to all who attended parent interviews prior to our half term break. We hope that you found the interview valuable and we value this home/school link. Thank you also for your positive response to our 'Book Look' initiative. I know from your feedback on the reply slips that you found this a valuable exercise in celebrating your child's achievements and allowing you to see how you can help at home. Thank you for taking part and we plan to make this a regular feature in the school calendar.



Safer Internet Day

On Tuesday 6th February, we celebrated Internet Safety Day in school. Stan Lutton visited to reinforce key internet safety messages with the pupils. He also reminded the older pupils that it is important to never meet with strangers and to communicate online in an appropriate manner. He also highlighted that it is important to talk to a trusted adult if they feel unsafe or receive inappropriate messages online.

Our children live in a technologically advanced world. Thus, we would encourage you as parents to ensure appropriate safeguards are in place at home to keep your child safe online. Cyber bullying is also becoming a growing problem and we'd encourage parents to monitor phone use. Constable Warren will also be delivering an internet safety workshop in the next term to all our pupils and our P5/6 pupils have been invited to attend a play called 'In the Net' at St Dallon's on Tuesday 13th March.



Shared Education

This term Y1/2 and Y5/6 are involved in shared lessons with St. Bronagh's. The aims of this programme are to promote and develop friendships and learn about similarities and differences through circle time and ice breaker activities, with the main focus of each lesson being Numeracy or Using I.C.T. P5/6 will also avail of ICT support from the Amma Centre in Armagh.

Sportshall Athletics Newry

The annual athletics took place on Tuesday 6th February at the new Newry Leisure Centre. 5 boys & 5 girls were chosen to represent the school in events like: 60m sprint, standing long jump, mixed agility relay & speed bounce. A particularly well done to Sanija who was 1 of 20 young athletes chosen to represent our region at the NI 'Everybody Active' in partnership of Sports Hall Athletics Finals.

Poetry in Motion

During term 1, our Y7 pupils were involved in poetry workshops as part of a province wide project called 'Poetry in Motion'. Each pupil contributed work and had their work forwarded for judging. We were delighted that quite a number of our pupils had either their individual work or group poems selected to appear in the poetry book. The school will also attend the celebration event in the **Ulster Hall on Tuesday 13th March**, where the children will perform their class poem. Well done to Kirsty, Ava, Katlyn, Cameron, Nathan, Daniels, Keegan, Summer-Rose, Casey, Abigail, Mia, Ryan and Isla for having their work chosen and all our P7's for their hard work on their class poem.

St. Patrick's Day

The school will be CLOSED on Monday 19th March for St. Patrick's Day. The Community Centre for Warrenpoint committee are also organising a St Patrick's Carnival, on 17th March 2018 in Warrenpoint. The parade will commence approximately 2 pm, leaving Warrenpoint Police Station, with a short procession through the town and finishing in Havelock Place where all entertainment will be laid on.



International Food Festival

As we approach St Patrick's Day and Easter, the PTA are planning to organise a Spring event that allows us to celebrate the diverse range of cultures represented by pupils in Dromore Road Primary School. On **Thursday 15th March 2018 at 7pm**, we will be hosting a celebration of international food, in association with families who attend our school. The cost of the evening will be **£3.00 for adults and £1.00 for children.**

Competition: All children/adults should come dressed in a fancy or traditional dress connected to any country in the world.



EASTER HOLIDAYS



School closes at **noon** on Wednesday 28th March and reopens for pupils on Tuesday 10th April. Please note staff have a staff development day on Monday 9th April. Enjoy a well-deserved break!

The Board of Governors and staff realise that for our school to be and stay a good school, we must continuously strive for excellence in all we do. In the coming months, we will be reviewing our current School Development Plan (SDP) for 2019 - 2022 and we would like to ask you your views on what we have done well and what we could do better. Before Easter, you will receive a survey home to complete and I would be grateful if you would take the time to complete and return it to the school office or your child's teacher. Policies under review will also be added to the school website for parental views. We will also send home a parent friendly version of Pastoral Care/ Child Protection and Anti-bullying in the coming week. Thank you.