



# DROMORE ROAD PRIMARY SCHOOL

## NOVEMBER NEWSLETTER



**Taster Day at St Mark's HS** – this Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> November for Year 7

**Swimming:** Please note that as one of our sessions was cancelled our final swim is now 28<sup>th</sup> November.

**Kilkeel HS Taster Day** – 29<sup>th</sup> Nov (Y7)

**Christmas Art Workshop** at St Mark's HS on Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> Dec Y5-7 (letter enclosed)

**School closes** 12 noon on Friday 21<sup>st</sup> Dec & **reopens** Monday 7<sup>th</sup> Jan 2019

### SCHOOL CHOIR

Please come and support our Makaton Choir who will be performing on Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> December at 3pm at the Yuletide Christmas Fayre in the Square, Warrenpoint.

The School Choir & Makaton Choir will also be performing at the Buttercrane Shopping Centre on Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> December at 10.15am.

### School Christmas Carol Service

Preparations are commencing for the school's Carol Service which will be held at 11am on Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> December at the Church of Ireland, Church Street, Warrenpoint. The retiring collection will be in aid of NSPCC who will be delivering assemblies and workshops in February. Everyone welcome!



### School Christmas Dinner/Jumper Day

The school's Christmas dinner is Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> December. This will also be a non-uniform day and we would encourage the children to come dressed for the festivities by wearing their Christmas jumpers. We suggest a donation of £1 per child and proceeds will go to the NSPCC.



### BOOK FAIR

The Scholastic Book Fair will be in school from Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> December to Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> December. This is a fabulous opportunity to select some books for your child or perhaps to buy some Christmas presents. It's also a great way to support your school as any commission earned will be used to buy new reading books and to add to our Accelerated Reader Library. The book fair will be open as follows:

**Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> Dec: 2-3.30pm**

**Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> Dec: 8.45-9.00am and 2-3.30pm**

**Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> Dec: 8.45-9.00am and 2-4pm**

**Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> Dec: 8.45-9.00am and 2-3.30pm**



This year we plan to avail of a number of different workshops being delivered by the EA's Music Service. This term, we are focusing on using apps on the iPad and Barry is currently delivering workshops with our P2-5 pupils. The pupils have been using Garageband to work creatively with sound and they've enjoyed listening and respond to their own and others' music-making.

### DEFIBRILLATOR

We have just taken delivery of a defibrillator funded through our Extended School Cluster funding. Whilst we hope that we are never in the position to have to use such a device, it is reassuring knowing that its use could form an essential life-saving step in the chain of survival for a pupil or a parent. The defibrillator is currently stored in the school office, if any parent should find themselves in the position of coming across someone taking a cardiac arrest. Please remember it is vital to call 999 and start CPR, before getting someone to get the defibrillator.



### BURNS SOCCER RETURNS

In the new year, Burns Soccer will be returning to take after school clubs. This is available for Y1-7 and will be on a Thursday afternoon starting in January. The cost for 10 sessions is £30. We appreciate that £30 is a lot to find just after Christmas so we are operating a saving scheme. Just send any amount you wish in an envelope to your teacher over the next few weeks and Mrs McParland will log this against your child's name.



'The Cabbage Patchers' have asked us to inform you they are putting on an old fashioned CHRISTMAS FAYRE on **Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> November** with over 20 stalls selling lots of great products and treats for Christmas. They will have free kids arts & crafts throughout the day, as well as hot drinks and treats for grown-ups too. Kids get free drink and crisps when parents buy a hot drink, plus Mr & Mrs Claus will be there to say hello with treats for the kids!!

## Mathletics Challenge

Mrs Newell, our Numeracy Co-ordinator has enrolled all the pupils for the Mathletics Challenge running this week and we would encourage all pupils to take part. Can I also say well done to Mrs English's class who have been working very hard on their Mathletics. Unbelievably, the whole class was presented with a certificate last week.

## Weather Policy

Please find attached letter for parents explaining the factors considered when closing the school due to bad weather/and how to know if the school will be closed.

## NOTIFICATION LETTER

The chairman of the Board of Governors has received notification of a school inspection scheduled to begin the 28<sup>th</sup> November. As you may already be aware, the teaching unions in NI have declared industrial action and as part of the directive, teaching staff at Dromore Road are following union advice and not co-operating with the Education and Training Inspectorate (ETI). The teachers will however provide the evidence that the arrangements for safeguarding pupils at Dromore Road reflect the guidance from the Department of Education, as we value the trust you have in us each day when you entrust your child in our care.

## School Board of Governors

The Governors have reviewed a number of policies this month and these are available on our website. The Child Protection Policy has also been amended following new advice from the Child Protection School Service and an updated copy will be sent home next week. The Annual Report will also be available next week on the school website [www.dromoreroadps.com](http://www.dromoreroadps.com) or from the school office.

## IFA Coaching on Mondays

We are delighted to have an IFA coach back with us again. Marty will deliver his sports programme to pupils in Y1-5 on a Monday. This has meant adjustments to our PE timetable so to ensure your child is prepared, all children should bring their PE Kit on a Monday and leave it in school all week. If for any reason your child is unable to do PE, please send in a note to your child's class teacher or speak to Mrs McParland in the office.



## Cookery at St Mark's Sat 20<sup>th</sup> Oct



## STEM WORKSHOP

On Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> Nov Y6 & Y7 worked with St Bronagh's pupils at St Mark's High School as part of our Extended Schools Programme. SENTINUS staff delivered a STEM workshop which promoted problem solving based on the theme of renewable energy.

## PTA CHRISTMAS HAMPERS

The PTA plan to hold a Christmas Hamper raffle. We would value your support in helping the PTA collate items to make up hampers. Tickets will go on sale at the beginning of December. There will be a short PTA meeting on Monday 26<sup>th</sup> at 9.05am – all welcome!

## Open Day and New Admissions 2019/20

We plan to have an Open Afternoon on **WEDNESDAY 12<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER** for all of our current parents and any prospective new parents. This is to allow parents to see around the classrooms and to get an insight into what your child has been learning this term. All the teachers will also be in their classroom, so please feel free to ask any questions you may have. Tea/coffee and shortbread will be available in the assembly hall. To facilitate this, the school will close at 1.30pm, current parents are welcome to view around the school at this time. The Education Authority (EA) also plan to introduce new online applications for admissions for pre-school and primary school places for September 2019 intake. A new portal for parents to apply online for a place has been created and this replaces the current paper-based application form. **The Go Live date for the new digital admissions is**

**Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> January 2019 at 10am. The closing time and date for punctual applications will be 12.00 midnight on Thursday 31<sup>st</sup> January 2019.**

As this is a new approach, the EA is also planning to provide Assisted Digital Support for parents and users of the system. This will be in the form of a new telephone service, enhanced website content and a number of face-to-face drop-in clinics held in EA offices and other locations during January 2019. We would be grateful if you'd share this information with any parents you know with children of nursery age. Parents are also welcome to call into school and speak to Mrs McGrath, if they need support with their application.

**Wed 12<sup>th</sup> December school closes at 1.30pm**

## Balanceability

Y1 are really enjoying the Balanceability programme being delivered by Mrs Cumming. All of the Y1 children have now progressed to using the pedal bikes and are becoming more confident propelling and controlling them. We even had a few gliding this week! Hopefully by the end of the 6 weeks we'll even have a few pedalling without stabilisers.