



DROMORE ROAD PRIMARY SCHOOL

CHRISTMAS NEWSLETTER



It's hard to believe that this is our last newsletter of 2018. It's been a busy December!! Apart from our newsletters, please remember to keep up to date via our website www.dromoreroadps.com and download our school app.

Year 7 Post Primary Update

On Friday 29th November, the Year 7 children had a fun filled day at Kilkeel High School for their Taster Day. Newry High hope to reschedule their Open Day in the New Year - date still to be confirmed. Post Primary admission criteria and further information regarding transfer is currently available at <https://www.eani.org.uk/admissions-guides/post-primary-schools-admission-guide/general-information> Transfer Forms will be sent home in January and completed Transfer Forms need to be returned to the office before Friday 1st February 2019 so they can be checked and processed by the school before returning to EA for Wednesday 6th February. If anyone needs help or advice filling in the form, please speak to Mrs Mc Grath.

Annual Report

The annual report for 2017/18 is available to view on the school website. Copies can also be obtained from the school office.

Scholastic Book Fair

The Scholastic Book Fair was in school from Monday 3rd December to Thursday 6th December. Thank you to all who purchased books and helped us raise £308. This provided the school with £77 commission, which we used to buy Accelerated Reader books for the school library.



The Governors and staff at Dromore Road Primary School would like to wish you all a very happy Christmas and a Peaceful New Year!

Open Afternoon



Thank you to all the parents who joined us on our open afternoon on Wednesday 12th December. I hope you found it valuable getting to look around the classroom and seeing your child's class books.

New Enrolment 2019/20

The Education Authority (EA) plan to introduce new online applications for admissions to 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 2nd January 2019 at 10am**. The closing time and date for punctual applications will be **12.00 midnight on Thursday 31st January 2019**.

As this is a new approach, the school plans to hold two additional open afternoons on **Wednesday 9th and Thursday 10th from 2-4 pm**. This is to support parents with the online process and to allow parents the opportunity to tour the school. We would be grateful if you would share this information with any parents you know with children of nursery age.

Alternatively, parents are welcome to call into school any afternoon and speak to Mrs McGrath, if they need support with their application.

School Christmas Dinner

Thank you to the kitchen staff and dining room assistants for providing us with a super Christmas Dinner, on Thursday 13th December. Staff and pupils got into the spirit of Christmas wearing their festive jumpers and there was a real celebratory atmosphere, with Christmas crackers on the tables. We were delighted to also raise £60.50 for the NSPCC. Thank you to everyone for your generosity.

Chocolate Reindeers

A big thank you to Mrs Moore who has kindly made her yummy Hot Chocolate Reindeers again for the school to sell. As you can imagine they have been very popular but we still have a few left for sale. Each reindeer costs £2 each or 3 for £5.

Burns Soccer School Club

Thank you to those who have already returned deposits and permission slips for Burns Soccer. Burns Soccer will start Thursday 17th Jan and is available for all pupils in Y1-7. The cost for 10 sessions is £30 and unfortunately missed sessions cannot be refunded. If you'd like your child to attend, please ask Mrs McParland for a copy of the permission slip that went home earlier in the month. A deposit of £10 is also required to secure a place. As places are limited to 20 per group, places will be secured on a first come basis.

Christmas Hampers

A big thank you to all who contributed items for the PTA's Christmas Hampers and purchased tickets. A special mention to Mrs Smith for putting the hampers together - they look absolutely fabulous. We were delighted to be able to add beautiful framed pictures to some of the hampers, which were kindly donated by a past parent, Ms Woods. The draw will take place on Thursday in assembly.



Dress Down Day

As in previous years, **Friday 21st** will be a non-uniform day. School will finish at **12 noon**. Please note the school reopens on **Monday 7th January**.

Our **School Choirs** have been doing a fabulous job getting the local community into the festive spirit! Our Makaton Choir performed on Sunday 2nd December at the Yuletide Christmas Fayre and despite the very wet conditions, sang beautifully. The School Choir & Makaton Choir also performed at the Buttercrane Shopping Centre on Wed 5th December and they were so good we have had a special request to sing at the Church of Ireland Carol Service on **THURSDAY 20th DECEMBER @ 7.30pm**. Thank you to all the parents who supported the choir by attending these events.

Choir members who are able to attend the Church of Ireland Carol Service on Thursday night should arrive at the church for 7.20pm. Refreshments will be available after the service and all the school community is welcome to attend.

STEM CHALLENGE

Well done to Christopher and Lucas who represented the school on Friday 14th December at St Louis Grammar School STEM Challenge. The boys were given materials to design a car with working lights and sound. We were delighted they came 4th overall.

Parental Suggestion Box

Apologies as I hadn't realised our enrolment sign was obstructing visibility. I have asked staff to take it down and we will relocate it elsewhere for advertising our Open Afternoons in January 2019.

Can I also remind pedestrians (unless with a buggy) to please use the pedestrian gate when dropping off/or collecting pupils as the playground gate is used by vehicles.

Motorists should also continue to drive with care when entering and leaving the school grounds and be extra vigilant when reversing.

Thank you for your co-operation as the safety of our pupils is paramount.



Choir performing at Buttercrane Shopping Centre

Carol Service/Nativity

A big thank you to all who attended this morning, Wednesday 19th for our Christmas carol service and nativity. The boys and girls in P1-3 looked amazing dressed in their festive costumes and I'm sure you'll agree that their performance was superb. A special mention also to our readers, recorder group and choirs – each child in the school did their bit in ensuring our carol service was a triumphant success. Can I also thank parents for their kind generosity as our NSPCC collection raised £33.34

PE Kits

Please check all PE kits over the break that all items still fit, particularly their plimsolls. Thank you.

Recent Inspection

The ETI visited the school on Wednesday 28th November. Prior to visiting, the inspectorate was advised that the teachers in Dromore Road were following union directive 'to refuse to participate in any school inspection process'. The Principal and the Chairperson of the Board of Governors did however co-operate with the Inspection team in relation to the Schools' safeguarding responsibilities and the Inspectors met with a representative group of Y6 & Y7 pupils to get their views on school life. We were delighted how maturely and positively the children spoke about their school experiences.