

DROMORE ROAD PRIMARY SCHOOL

JANUARY 2019 NEWSLETTER



Welcome back!! After a lovely break we are already into the full swing of things and the teachers are pleased with how quickly the pupils have settled into the school routine again. Please remember to regularly check out the school website www.dromoreroadps.com to get a snapshot of school life.

Drumming Workshop

We are delighted to currently have the EA Music service delivering a 4 week drumming workshop with our P4-7 pupils. The pupils have been using a traditional West African drum called a djembe and have been learning how to make different beats and to sequence these into a traditional tune. Hopefully in a few weeks they will be ready to perform to our younger pupils.



Weather Policy

As the weather is getting significantly colder, just a reminder that our procedures during severe weather conditions are available on the school website. It explains the factors considered in deciding whether to close the school and how the school will inform parents if the school will be closed. The school text service and website app will be used primarily to inform parents.

Punctuality



Since Christmas there has been a noticeable number of pupils arriving after the 9am bell. Having pupils arrive into class at intervals during the morning is very disruptive for the other pupils and can be unsettling for your child. Please make a concerted effort to ensure your child arrives before the school bell. Thank you.



Parent Interviews

Meetings to discuss your child's progress will be held from Tues 12th to Fri 15th February. Please note that the school will close at 1.30pm on these days. Meetings will take place from 1.45 up to 4pm each day. Letters will be sent out next week; please return the appointment slip indicating your preferred day. You will then be texted your time and date of appointment. **If you require a translator, please contact the office with the date you require.**

New Admissions 2019/20 Reminder

Following a few teething difficulties, the Education Authority's new online applications process for admissions for pre-school and primary school places for September 2019 now seems to be running smoothly. **The closing time and date for punctual applications on the parent portal will be 12.00 midnight on Thursday 31st January 2019.**

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.

IFA Coaching on Mondays

We have been delighted to have Marty, an IFA coach in school working with our p1-5 classes each Monday. Unfortunately, due to funding issues their contract is due to end at the end of the month. We hope that funding from Stormont will be forthcoming but will keep you updated.

GL Transfer Test Results

Good luck this weekend to all our P7 pupils who will be receiving their transfer test results. These will be posted Friday 25th January 2019 (first class) to children's homes. We wish you all well!!



BURNS SOCCER RETURNS



We are delighted that Burns Soccer is back this term. Our coach this term is Liam Bagnall, a former Sunderland FC player and he was extremely complimentary about the pupils' attitude and skill level following his first session. Thank you to all parents who have paid the full balance. Any remaining balances should be paid off as soon as possible as Burns request full payment upfront. If any pupils in P1-3 would still like to attend there are still a few places available. Apologies the P4-7 group is now full. Due to the high demand we hope to book Burns Soccer again for after Easter.

P6/P7 Transfer

Parents of P6 pupils will receive a leaflet today advising on the transfer process. Post Primary admission criteria and further information regarding transfer is currently available at <https://www.eani.org.uk/admissions-guides/post-primaryschools-admission-guide/general-information>.

P7 Transfer Forms will be sent home later this week 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. Please look carefully at your first school choice's admission criteria and explain how your child meets the criteria on your form. This is what each school uses when shortlisting.

Mrs McGrath will be available the week beginning 28th January for any parents who need advice or support filling in the form. Please speak to Mrs McParland and she will arrange a mutually convenient time.

Upcoming February Events

- 1st Feb – P6/7 Credit Union Quiz at St Dallan's Primary
- 5th Feb – Internet Safety Day and NSPCC Assembly and P6/7 workshop
- 5th Feb – Internet Safety Parent Workshop 2pm
- 6th Feb- P4/5 Egyptian Trip
- 7th Feb – Habitat for Humanity Workshop
- 12-15th Feb - Parent Interviews
- 18-22nd Feb – Half term break for pupils



Newry High Taster Day

Newry High P6/7 Taster Day has been rescheduled for Friday 25th January. A varied range of activities has been organised and they will have the chance to take part in science, technology and PE lessons. Pupils will be picked up **at 8.45am** and should wear school tracksuit. They are scheduled to be back at school around 2.50-3pm.



Cancer Focus Workshop

Cancer Focus NI will be in school on Thursday 31st January. They will hold 4 different age appropriate workshops focusing on diet, fitness and keeping our bodies healthy by not smoking. P1/2 will also have a visit from Genevieve, the goat.

Trim Trail Play Area

One of the outcomes of our consultation with the pupils has been the desire to develop the grass area into a trim trail/ climbing area for the older pupils to use. Mrs McGrath and the school council will be meeting with some designers this week to get an idea of cost and we intend to try to secure another Award For All grant to help us finance this project. We will keep you updated.



Inspection

The inspection team recently visited the school and they have contacted the school to confirm their subsequent report will shortly be made available. A copy of the report, which acknowledges the school's decision to take Action Short of Strike, will be published at www.etini.gov.uk.

Uniform

It is with deep sadness that we recognise the O'Hare family's decision to retire. The shop was established in 1946 and since then has had a prominent position on Warrenpoint's main street, supplying clothes and uniforms to the local community. Definitely the end of an era and we wish the family well in their well-deserved retirement.

Saints and Scholars in Newry will now be the sole supplier of Dromore Road's uniform and O'Hare's plan to pass on all their surplus stock to them before closing. I have advised Saints and Scholars that the tracksuit and polo shirt that is currently on sale in O'Hare's has the old logo and they have assured me only the new logoed uniform will be stocked for September.

As the year proceeds, standards in uniform often begin to slip. We appreciate that many are currently playing sport in the afternoon and subsequently wear their tracksuit to school on these days. On full uniform days, we would ask that you ensure your child is wearing a school tie and black shoes. For consistency, we also ask that girls who wish to wear tights should wear grey. Thank you for your co-operation.

