



DROMORE ROAD PRIMARY SCHOOL

September/ October 2019 News



Welcome to our first Newsletter of the new school term. We hope you find this newsletter useful in providing you with a 'snapshot' of daily life at our school, as well as providing you with up to date information of future school events. Please also remember to visit our school website regularly (www.dromoreroadps.com) where content is amended and updated often and to download the school app.

School Nurse

Flu Vaccinations are scheduled for Monday 21st October



Northern Ireland Bank Notes

Please be advised that the old paper £5 & £10 bank notes from the Northern Ireland banks (Ulster Bank, Danske Bank & Bank of Ireland) will be withdrawn from circulation on 30th September 2019 and that we will no longer be accepting these in school.

Office Hours

Please note the office will be unmanned between 11 and 1pm as Mrs McParland is in the classroom during this time. Mrs McParland will be back in the office in the afternoon if you wish to leave a message.



Parent Teacher Association

The school's PTA is invaluable in raising funds for the pupils and is a great way for new parents to get involved in school life. Our current PTA members are a very enthusiastic group and their first meeting has been organised for Wednesday 2nd October at 7pm in the Whistledown Hotel. The PTA would like to extend a warm welcome to any new members who'd like to attend.

This year our Autumn Fayre has been organised for **Friday 25th October 7-9pm** and the PTA would appreciate your help, if possible.

Art of Brilliance Programme

This year, as part of our focus on pupils' health and well-being, Paddy from Art of Brilliance will be working with our Y5-7 pupils. Paddy will introduce a wellbeing curriculum on Thursday 3rd October and then the project will be handed over to the pupils to design and deliver their own programme, stimulating pupils' voice in shaping school improvement. The aim is to leave a sustainable, long-term wellbeing ethos, driven by the children themselves, that they cascade throughout the school and the local community.



The programme will run over four days:

Day 1 - Paddy will explore the key principles of positivity, happiness, resilience, goal-setting, personal responsibility, impact, kindness and aspiration.

Day 2 - Paddy will work with the children to begin to identify the actions needed to move our school to new heights of positive excellence. The children formulate a school plan based around '10 things we will do to make this school the best in the county'.

Day 3 - The children will be busy working on their 'brilliant' school plan and Paddy will visit to monitor progress.

Day 4 - The BIG moment, Art Of Brilliance happiness inspector visits the school to judge progress on Thursday 28th November. The children will be expected to present and provide evidence against their '10-point plan'. The inspector will make a judgement and the school will be awarded either an "Awesome" or "Well Impressed" outcome.

We hope that the whole school community will benefit from this fun programme, creating a ripple of positivity that goes way beyond the school gates!

UNIFORM

Thank you to parents who have purchased school uniform with the new logo, the children look very smart! Can I remind parents that only the **regulation tracksuit with the school logo** should be worn as there are so many variations of green. Please kindly note that PE days have changed for some of the classes and that uniform arrangements are as follows for this term:

Mrs McGrath's (P1/2) and Mrs English (P2/3)

Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri
Tracksuit	Shirt and tie	Shirt and tie	Tracksuit	Tracksuit

Mrs Newell/ Mrs McAteer (P4/5)

Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri
Tracksuit	Shirt and tie	Shirt and tie or Tracksuit on swimming days only	Tracksuit	Tracksuit

Mrs Graham (P6/7)

Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri
Tracksuit	Shirt and tie	Tracksuit as PE day is now Wed	Shirt and tie	Tracksuit



In maintaining high standards throughout the school, pupils are expected to wear the appropriate uniform on the correct days.

Punctuality

A big thank you to all parents for ensuring your child is in school ready to start lessons at 9am. The staff have been pleased at pupils' punctuality so far and we'd appreciate your support in sustaining good attendance and punctuality, as the school year progresses.

Morning Supervision

Supervision in the school playground commences at 8.45am. If you need to drop your child off before 8.45am, please send them up to the main office so that a member of staff can supervise.

BREAKS & LUNCH BOX REMINDER

Just a reminder to parents to be very vigilant with snacks and packed lunches. We would ask that you strictly adhere to our **no nut policy** and to check the labels of chocolate products carefully. Can I also remind parents that the children are encouraged to drink water in class during the day but this bottle should contain only water and not diluting. Thank you

Judo Workshop

On Monday 16th September Dermot McCaul kindly organised a judo workshop. All the pupils had great fun engaging in a range of activities to improve their flexibility, agility and speed and we hope that Dermot will visit again soon.



Shared Education

Our Shared Education focus this year will involve working with the Heritage Officers at Newry, Mourne and Down Council to support pupils' learning. This term Y4/5 and Y2/3 will be working with the pupils from St. Bronagh's to explore biodiversity in Warrenpoint Municipal Park.

**SCHOOL CLOSURES AT
1.30PM
on Tues 22nd, Wed
23rd, Thurs 24th &
Friday 25th October**

Parent/Teacher Interviews

Parents Interviews are scheduled to take place from Tuesday 22nd to Friday 25th October. Kindly note that the school will finish at 1.30pm on these dates. Class literacy and numeracy books will be sent home prior to the interviews for parents' perusal.




Happy Halloween Break

**SCHOOL WILL BE CLOSED
Mon 28th Oct to
Fri 1st Nov inclusive
and reopens on Monday
4th November**



BURNS SKILL SCHOOL

This year we are delighted to have signed up to Burns Skill School 'Five Star Package'. As part of this package, Mrs English's class has been enjoying a range of specifically tailored PE workshops to develop their fundamental skills. We are also delighted to be offer two new Burns Afterschool Clubs this term, Golf and Tag rugby. These will run until December and if your child would like to attend, there are still some places available.



Viking Trip Y4/5

On Friday 27th September, Y4/5 enjoyed a wonderful day learning all about Viking life at the Navan Centre in Armagh. The pupils enjoyed meeting some Vikings and hearing about their life. Some lucky pupils even got to dress in Viking clothing and handle replica weapons. Mrs McAteer was also delighted that the children were complimented on their exemplary behaviour.

Extended Schools link with St Mark's

This year as part of our cluster, Y4-7 pupils have been invited to attend three workshops at St Mark's to promote pupils' health and well-being. The first workshop is scheduled to take place on Saturday 19th October from 10.45-12.15pm and is a Halloween Cookery Workshop. This is being organised by the Home Economics Department at St Mark's and permission slips will be sent home to Y4-7 later this week. Please note that places are limited to 20 for each workshop so please return the permission slips promptly.

Y6/7 will also be working with the other schools in our cluster later this term to create a poetry book. Declan Carville, a local poet will visit Dromore Road to work with the class on Tuesday 5th November.

Promoting Positive Behaviour

This year at break and lunch, staff have been rewarding pupils' acts of kindness and for following our Golden Rules with golden raffle tickets. Each Friday, the lunchtime supervisors draw out twelve pupils to sit at our Golden Lunch Table as recognition of their exemplar behaviour. Well done to the lucky pupils!!

During Friday assembly, we will also be starting our Pupil of the Week award. Each week there is a different focus and the recipient for each class will receive a certificate and a trophy. Pupils will take the trophy home on Friday to show family and friends and it should be returned again on Monday to be displayed in school. We would ask for parents' cooperation in returning trophies in a timely manner.

Anti-bullying Week will take during the week beginning 11th November and our policy review is currently on the website for parental consultation.



New Y1 class with Mrs McGrath & Mrs Vallely

Mathletics

Everyone in Y1 to Y7 has access to our Mathletics programme. This will help with all aspects of maths from adding to times tables. It is recommended that your child spends 10 minutes per night on this. Certificates are awarded for obtaining 1,000 in a week. Year 1 passwords will be sent home before half term.



GOLDEN TABLE