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Newsletter - December 2021

Thank you for continuing to adhere to our social distancing rules. Please remember that face masks should still be worn once you enter the school gates (unless you are exempt for medical reasons). Please continue to reinforce the importance of good handwashing and hygiene routines at home.

Charity

Thank you for sending food donations for the Harvest Assembly. Your donations have been greatly appreciated.



Our parents are extremely generous in Dundela and this year we are asking you not to send in Christmas presents for staff.

If you would like to make a donation towards **our NI Children's Hospice Elmer Appeal** instead, a donation of any amount will be greatly appreciated. Children will receive an

envelope for you to put your donation in and return it to school, should you wish to do so.



Christmas Jumper Day

This will be held on Friday 10th December. Children can come to school in their Christmas jumper and donate to the Save the Children Charity. The donation will be available on the Schoolmoney app shortly. It is set at £2.00 but the amount can be changed if desired.

We are delighted that many parents are being eco-friendly and are using our donated Christmas jumpers instead of purchasing new ones. There are a few left so please come and have a look at what we have. The school Eco Committee would really appreciate it if ALL the jumpers could go to a good home!

PTA

The PTA will be holding a number of fundraising events throughout the year. You will receive the information about these via Seesaw and we would encourage you to participate as much as you can. Each event raises much needed funds for our school and helps to enhance your child's educational experience.





Christmas Concert

As we are unable to invite parents into school for our Christmas Concert this year, each class has decided to perform a “virtual” short concert which will be sent home via Seesaw and put onto the website. We have decided to do this so the children can experience taking part, despite the restrictions, and also so that you do not miss out on seeing your child perform! As with previous years, you will be able to purchase a ticket for £1 which will be payable online through Schoolmoney.

Absence Notes

Please remember to send a note either through the Seesaw App or in paper form, to the class teacher giving a reason if your child has been absent from school. The Education Welfare Officer visited school prior to half term and carried out an audit of attendance during September and October. Reasons for absence are important and they are reviewed during the audit. Parents of children whose absence level is a concern will be informed.

Milk for Term 2

As advised by Seesaw, if you wish your child to have milk in Term 2 please contact the teacher and pay online before Sunday 12 December. Those already taking milk in Term 1 will be added to the new term payment unless the teacher is advised that you no longer wish your child to take milk.

Nursery and Primary 1 Admissions for September 2022

The application process will open on 10th January 2022 at 12.00noon and close on 28th January 2022 at 12.00noon.

The parental admissions portal will go live on 10th January 2022 and can be accessed through the Education Authority's www.eani.org.uk website. Parents will be able to submit their online application form here and upload the documents required.

Information on our school criteria will also be available through this EA website.



Unfortunately, due to current restrictions, we are unable to hold our usual Open Days for prospective parents. We have a short video which includes a virtual tour of our school on our website for parents to view, and I am happy to speak to any parent who would like to find out more about the school and the admissions process.

School Dinners

As there is considerable administration connected with school dinners, parents are reminded of the following:

- **All meals should be booked online by the Sunday evening. If dinners are not booked by then, your child may not be able to receive a dinner and you will be asked to bring a packed lunch to school for your child that day.**
- Dinners are currently £2.60 per day for P1-3, £13.00 per week.
- Free school meals can only be supplied when we have received notification from the Education Authority.
- Special diets due to medical conditions or for religious reasons can be supplied only if an official form has been returned.



Reminders

- **Absence due to COVID-19**
Please inform the school immediately, either by email or phone call, if your child's absence is related to COVID -19 in any way.
- Dogs are not permitted on the school grounds.
- **Holidays**
School will close 11.40am- 12noon on Tuesday 21st December for the Christmas holidays. Dinners will not be served. Tuesday 4th January is a Staff Development Day and pupils should not attend. Term 2 will begin for the children on Wednesday 5th January 2022.
- **School Closure – Emergency Situations**
In the event of the school being unable to open due to an emergency, information will be sent through the Seesaw App and will also be made available on the school website:
www.dundelainfants.co.uk

Thank you for your continued support,

S Wilson
Principal

