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Newsletter - May 2022

It is hard to believe we have reached our final few months of the academic year. Term three is always extremely busy for children, staff and the office! Our children are loving being able to access our outdoor resources in the better weather and we would advise that they should bring a hat or cap to school to be worn when they are in the playground. If it appears that the sun will be quite strong, parents are advised to put sunscreen on children prior to school.



Our Elmer Trail



I would like to thank you all so much for your extremely generous donations given to school for our Elmer Trail. We have raised **£1131** (to date) for the NI Children's Hospice. Equally generous businesses on the Belmont Road have also donated and have helped us raise a further **£522** towards our Elmer fund.



After a lot of hard work, the children are happy to have finished decorating our very own Ella Dundela, who has now gone to join the rest of the Learning Herd! The Northern Ireland Hospice Elmer Trail event will launch on 13th June. Watch this space for details of where you can go to see Ella Dundela and her friends!

Elmer Day will be held on the 27th May and we are really looking forward to celebrating our individuality!



Schools of Sanctuary Award 2022

We are currently working towards becoming a School of Sanctuary.

We want to live in a world where every child feels safe and accepted, regardless of what they believe, where they are from or what they look like; a world where cultural diversity is valued and celebrated.

Schools of Sanctuary is an initiative which aims to make this vision a reality.

By becoming a School of Sanctuary, we will be fostering a culture of welcome and inclusion in our school and community. We will be offering refuge to those who need it and will be equipping pupils and students with intercultural skills and the ability to have compassion in what is, for many, a turbulent world.

We hope our school can inspire the people and places around us to become safer, more welcoming and more inclusive for anyone seeking sanctuary.

Uniform

During the Summer Term girls may wear **green and white** striped/checked summer dresses. To avoid confusion when changing for PE, please make sure that your child's name is visibly marked on the dress label. Please ensure that footwear is suitable for school.

Uniform for next year will be available from David Crawford's online shop www.uniformstoreni.co.uk or in-store. We are hoping to have a Uniform Swap Shop before the end of term. More details to follow.



School Closures

There will be a School Development Day on **Thursday 2nd June** - staff only to attend.

Jubilee Bank Holiday - School closed - **Friday 3rd June**.

School Dinners

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

- **All meals (free and paid), should be booked online by the Sunday evening.**
- 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.



Questionnaire

Once again our questionnaire results were extremely positive. Parents praised the staff, welcoming environment and outdoor provision, and I would like to thank everyone who submitted their responses.

ADMISSIONS – September 2021

Letters regarding admissions for both Nursery and Primary 1, along with intake information, have been sent to parents and all forms should be returned to the office as soon as possible.

We are receiving enquiries about available places in P2 & P3 for September. If any child currently in P1 or P2 will not be returning to school in September it would be appreciated if this information was given in writing so that we are aware of any available places.



IMPORTANT

School Grounds

Unfortunately, a number of children, including Strandtown siblings, have been going onto the grassy areas of our grounds in the morning and at home time. Some of our lovely, new resources have been destroyed and other areas have been left unsafe and very untidy. It is extremely disappointing for the children and staff to come out to use these resources and then to find them in such a state. The



staff have worked incredibly hard to make our outdoor area as exciting as it is and we do not have the funds to replace broken items. **Please ensure your children do not go onto the grassy areas of our school grounds in the morning or at home time. All children should wait in the playground beside their parent/carer.**



- **Term Dates & Holidays 2022/23**

A list of the term dates and holidays for 2022/2023 is online and has been sent via Seesaw. Please remember that holidays should not be booked during term time.

- **20th May - Maths Morning**

The children will have an exciting morning of investigation and problem-solving!

- **27th May - Elmer Day**

Wear bright clothes and celebrate being YOU!

- **1st June - Jubilee Fun Day**

Your child's teacher will have been in touch with you about this special event. There are lots of fun, exciting activities planned for all the children and, weather permitting, we hope to have a picnic lunch outside. If you would like your child to have a picnic lunch, please book through the School Money App.

- **Sports Events in June**

Please check the Seesaw App for further information. Each class will have a particular date and time for the sports events.

- **Car Parking**

A number of residents have made contact with school to complain about parking in the vicinity of their homes. Parents walking with prams have also raised concerns that they have to walk on the road due to the cars parked on the footpath. Please ensure that you show consideration when parking. We have been advised that the PSNI are continuing to monitor parking in the area. Unfortunately, the Education Authority are not providing a crossing patrol at this time. Please do get in touch with the Education Authority (**Tel: 028 9056 4000**) with any concerns you may have.

Thank you for your continued support,

S Wilson
Principal

