



NEWSLETTER - JANUARY 2019

Thank you to everyone for supporting the P1/2 Concert and the P3 Nativity at the end of the year. The children and staff are to be thanked and congratulated for all the work that went into these events. A total of £1000.00 was raised for the East Belfast Mission – Neighbours in Need Appeal.

The Presents for £££ Appeal raised a total of £1160 and this will be forwarded to the Cancer Fund for Children. £165.00 was also raised for the Save the Children Fund Christmas Jumper Day Appeal. Staff are very appreciative of the generosity of parents.

On the last day of term, the children enjoyed a Fun Morning which included Christmas stories, games and a craft activity. Santa & Mrs Claus visited, bringing a present for each child and the morning ended with class parties with food supplied by teachers. Thanks are due to all staff for making this an enjoyable morning for the children.

MILK MONEY

Details and envelopes have been given to children who took milk during Term 1. The cost for Term 2 is £12.50. All money needs to be paid by **Wednesday 16 January**. Cheques should be made payable to **EDUCATION AUTHORITY**.

If your child did not take milk during Term 1 and you would like your child to take milk during Term 2 please ask the class teacher for an envelope.

SCHOOL FUND

School Fund (£6 per family) for Term 2 is due on **Wednesday 23 January**, with cheques made payable to **Dundela Infants' School**.

SCHOOL CLOSURE – EMERGENCY SITUATIONS

In the event of the school being unable to open due to an emergency, parents are asked to note the following:

- Information will be sent by a TEXT MESSAGE to one parent of each family in school.
- Information will be made available on the school website dundelainfants.co.uk
- Information will be made available on BBC Northern Ireland News website - <http://www.bbc.co.uk/nineews>

CONTACT DETAILS

Please remember to advise us in writing of any changes to contact details immediately they occur. This includes details of anyone you have given as a contact in case of emergencies. In particular, please ensure mobile numbers are kept up-to-date.

PUNCTUALITY

Please remember that school starts at 8.55am each morning and children are marked late if they arrive after this time. The classroom doors remain unlocked until 9.00am. After 9.00am parents need to leave children in through the main front door. A number of parents who are late have insisted recently on taking children down to their classroom as they wish to speak to the teacher. From this term, as teachers begin teaching at 8.55am, parents will not be permitted to take children down through school to their classroom or speak to the teacher at this time. If it is important please leave a message with the Secretary who will pass it on to the teacher.

P3 CLUBS & HOMEWORK CLUB

P3 Clubs and Homework Club have started again this week and will continue until Wednesday 10 April. You are asked to note that there will be NO HOMEWORK CLUB on Tuesday 15 January due to the Nursery and P1 Open afternoon/evening for the September 2019 intake.

P2 MATHS ATTACK CLUB

Group 3 – Group 3 starts Thursday 10 January.

PARENT INTERVIEWS

Parent Interviews will be held week beginning Monday 11 March 2019. Further details will be sent out towards the end of February.

ASSESSMENT

During each term teachers carry out ongoing progress assessments. During Term 3 assessments will begin from the end of April and continue during May. As the assessments include observations and practical activities it is important that children are at school as time constraints and organisation will not permit individual assessments at another time. Parents are asked not to arrange holidays in particular during this time.

APPLICATION FOR NURSERY AND PRIMARY 1 FOR SEPTEMBER 2019

As you are aware from previous newsletters the process for making application to school and nurseries/pre-school for September 2019 is now an online process. All details are on the Education Authority website www.eani.org.uk. Click on the Admissions tab for all the details. The closing date is Thursday 31 January 2019 at 12.00midnight. Please remember that birth certificates, proof of address and any other documentation relating to any of your preferred choice of schools/nurseries must be submitted to the first preference school/nursery as soon as possible after making application and not later than Friday 8 February 2019 at 12.00noon. Those who make an application to nursery/pre-school and tick the social disadvantage criterion are required to print off a Benefit Verification Form, have it stamped by Social Security staff and submit it to the first preference nursery/pre-school by 8 February 2019 at 12.00noon. Failure to submit this form will mean the child will not be considered under this criterion.

If you have difficulty accessing the Parent Portal there is an EA Admissions Helpdesk 028 95985595. If any parents need any advice or information about the process, please make contact with school and we will endeavour to help you.

We will be holding an Open Afternoon/Evening on Tuesday 15 January 2019 from 3.00-4.00pm and 6.30-7.30pm for parents of prospective pupils. Please share this information with neighbours/friends.

PRIMARY 3 APPLICATIONS FOR STRANDTOWN

All Primary 3 parents have received an application form along with a copy of criteria and information relating to the application process. Forms should be returned to Strandtown by Thursday 31 January 2019 at 4.00pm along with the child's birth certificate and proof of address. If for any reason a parent is not planning to apply for a P4 place in Strandtown it would be helpful to let the current class teacher know so we can pass this information to Strandtown. It is also important that applications are made now to schools being considered to ensure a Primary 4 place for September.

RECONSTITUTION OF THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS

The Board of Governors has recently been reconstituted with the following members:

Education Authority Reps	Mr W Pinkerton	Miss L Dawson
Church of Ireland Reps	Mrs K Doyle	Rev C St John
Presbyterian Rep	Rev J Campbell	
Methodist Rep	Rev Dr F Munce MBE	
Parent Reps	Ms G Evans	Mrs E McCrory
Teacher Rep	Miss J Davidson	
Principal/Secretary (non-voting)	Miss S Mackey	

We thank Mrs I Blanchard, Mrs A Dorrian and Mrs C Harkness for their work as Governors over the past number of years.

PTA

The Children's Disco will be held on Saturday 19 January in Connswater Community Centre. Please see attached sheet for details.

A meeting will be held on Monday 21 January at 7.30pm to make plans for the other events being held this year. If any parents have any unwanted Christmas presents or any other unused items they would like to donate to the PTA they will be used for a raffle at the Quiz due to be held in March.

CAR PARKING

May I again remind parents to park responsibly when leaving/collecting children to and from school. At the end of term a very distraught neighbour contacted the school to complain about her driveway being constantly blocked by parents' cars. As she has limited mobility this often creates difficulties for her. She was particularly upset as she considered that a parent was then verbally abusive to her.

STAFFING

At a meeting of the Board of Governors at the end of November I formally made the Governors aware of my intention to retire at the end of August 2019. The Board of Governors, along with the Education Authority, will shortly be commencing the recruitment process to appoint my successor. I look forward to your continued support during the rest of this school year.

S H Mackey
Principal

DATES TO REMEMBER

Wednesday 16 January	Milk money due £12.50	
Saturday 19 January	PTA Children's Disco	
Wednesday 23 January	School Fund due £6.00	
Friday 15 February	School Finishes 1.30pm (After dinners/ packed lunches)	
Mon 18 & Tues 19 February	Half Term Holiday	
Wednesday 20 February	School Development Day (School closed)	
Week commencing Mon 11 March	Parent Interview Week - School finishes 1.00pm (After Dinners/Packed Lunches)	
Monday 18 March	School Development Day (School closed)	
Friday 12 April	School finishes 12.15pm - NO DINNERS/PAKED LUNCHES	
Mon 15 – Fri 26 April	Easter Holidays	
Monday 29 April	Term 3 starts	