



Dundela Infants' School

& Nursery Unit

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NEWSLETTER - JANUARY 2020

Thank you to everyone for supporting the Nursery, 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 £1400.00 was raised for the Marie Curie Hospice as well as the purchase of outdoor play equipment for school.

The Presents for £££ Appeal raised a total of £983 and this will be forwarded to the Cancer Fund for Children. £217.00 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 £10.00. All money needs to be paid by **Wednesday 15 January**. Any 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 22 January**, with any 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/ninews>

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. 8.55am 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. 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.

FOOTBALL CLUB

For those who registered, paid and received confirmation, Football Club commences Tuesday 7 January. Parents of those children involved will have already received further information.

P3 CLUBS & HOMEWORK CLUB

P3 Clubs and Homework Club have started again this week and will continue until Wednesday 1 April.

P2 MATHS ATTACK CLUB

Maths Attack Club will start on Thursday 9 January. Parents who have already signed up will receive a reminder prior to their children starting.

PARENT INTERVIEWS

Parent Interviews will be held week beginning Monday 9 March 2020. 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 2020

As you are aware from previous newsletters the process for making application to school and nurseries/pre-school for September 2020 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 30 January 2020 at 12.00 noon. 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 7 February 2020 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 7 February 2020 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 additional Open Afternoon on Tuesday 21 January 2020 from 3.00-4.00pm for parents of prospective pupils who missed the Open Day in December. Please share this information with neighbours/friends.

PRIMARY 3 APPLICATIONS FOR STRANDTOWN

All Primary 3 parents have received an application form. Forms should be **returned to Strandtown** by Thursday 30 January 2020 at 12.00 noon, 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.

WRAPAROUND CARE SURVEY

We are currently gauging interest in the provision of wraparound care and a survey has already been sent home. Please return the form as soon as possible so that, if there is enough interest, we can begin planning with the providers for next year.

PTA

The Children's Disco will be held on Saturday 18 January in the Harland & Wolff Staff Club in Dundela Avenue. Please see attached sheet for details.

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 February.

Last year just over £700 was raised through donations for the Marathon Team which took part in the Belfast Marathon on May Day. We hope to be able to enter a team again this year (Sunday 3 May) or, if there are sufficient runners, two teams. We would like to gauge interest early and encourage parents to consider being part of a team. There is a different route this year with 5 stages, each of varying distances, and you will be able to state your preferred distance at a later date. If you would be interested in taking part, please return the reply slip by Monday 19 November.

S. Wilson

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Principal

DATES TO REMEMBER

Wednesday 15 January

Saturday 18 January

Wednesday 22 January

Friday 14 February

Mon 17 & Tues 18 February

Wednesday 19 February

Week commencing Mon 9 March

Monday 16 & Tues 17 March

Friday 3 April

Mon 6 – Fri 17 April

Monday 20 April

Milk money due £10.00

PTA Children's Disco

School Fund due £6.00

School Finishes 1.30pm

(After dinners/ packed lunches)

Half Term Holiday

School Development Day (School closed)

Parent Interview Week - School finishes 1.00pm

(After Dinners/Packed Lunches)

School Development Days (School closed)

School finishes 12.15pm - **NO DINNERS/PACKED LUNCHES**

Easter Holidays

Term 3 starts



DUNDELA INFANTS' SCHOOL – MARATHON RELAY TEAM

Name _____

E-mail Address _____

Contact Phone Number _____

Name of Child(ren) _____ Class(es) _____